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US warning over Moscow meeting

# Thatcher told not to talk about Trident

By PETER STOTHARD IN WASHINGTON AND ROBIN OAKLEY

THE White House has warned Mrs Margaret Thatcher not to raise the future of Britain's nuclear deterrent when she meets President Gorbachov tomorrow.

In a surprise move concerning the most sensitive issue of Anglo-American relations, President Bush's national security adviser, General Brent Scowcroft, has urged that the Prime Minister give up her plan to reassure Moscow about the "minimum" nature of the Trident programme.

Earlier this week, Downing Street sources let it be known that Mrs Thatcher would intervene personally with the Soviet leader on the Trident question. Her message would be that Britain's tiny proportion of the world's strategic arsenal should not be included in negotiations.

British fears had been raised by reports that the US programme of supplying Trident missiles to Britain was the "number one" obstacle to a strategic arms reduction (Start) treaty. According to some accounts, the Soviet side insisted that commitments be included in the deal that would make the Trident D-5 programme the last Mr Bush warned Mrs Thatcher during their 20-minute telephone conversation on Sunday of Soviet concerns that the 1958 Polaris Agreement between Britain and the US might be used to circumvent a Start treaty by transferring more nuclear armaments to Britain.

## Death of Joe Loss

Joe Loss, the band leader who brought dance music into British homes through radio and records, has died in hospital of kidney failure at the age of 80. He had retired last year.

Lord Grade said last night: "He was a master of control over his orchestra. It was beautiful rhythm, music the public could understand." *Obituary, page 14*

## Geography test

Teachers will be given more freedom in under the National Curriculum after final recommendations from the geography working party which lays down examples of what children should know. *Page 6*

## Brazilian offer

The Brazilian Government is prepared to consider conversion of its foreign debt in return for greater efforts to protect its rainforests. *Page 9*

## Rushdie block

President Rafsanjani of Iran restated his wish for a resumption of relations with Britain but said the Rushdie death sentence will stay. *Page 11*

## Dunsdale probe

The Fraud Squad has begun investigations into Dunsdale Securities, an investment firm suspended by the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association. *Page 23*

## Food research

The food scares of the past few years have led to toxicology emerging as a key discipline of the next century. *Science & Technology, pages 33-36*

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Soviet arms controllers had played what one US official yesterday described as "tricky games". Although they had asked tough new questions, including a number about the British deterrent, it was unclear how determined they were to secure formal concessions from the Americans on the "non-circumvention" clauses.

Mrs Thatcher was willing to soothe any fears Mr Gorbachov may have expressed tomorrow by emphasizing that she was interested only in maintaining the minimum credible deterrent and would not assist in circumventing any strategic arms deal. Washington was told about Mrs Thatcher's Moscow plans and appeared to make no objection. On Wednesday, however, the White House decided that discretion would be the better part of diplomacy when the Prime Minister met Mr Gorbachov. "If Gorbachov gets into the issue, there's not much we can do," an American government official said. "But for our part we see this as a US-Soviet business."

The surprise American warning caused concern among British observers who, while accepting US commitments to the continuing support of Britain's independent nuclear status, are ever nervous at new threats to its future.

It was Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State, who described the agreement to supply nuclear capability to the UK as the "number one" problem for Start, placing it above the testing of the Soviet Union's SS-18 missiles and the classification of its backfire bomber. Both Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachov have said they want to sign a Start deal by the end of the year and Mr Baker's role will be to make sure that nothing stands in the way.

"This is all Soviet bluster - Viktor Karpov at play," one expert said yesterday. But others believe Soviet concerns about the British deterrent will become more acute as superpower missiles and warheads are reduced.

The statement of agreement on Start, signed in Washington last Friday, was the first commitment by the superpowers to cut, rather than merely control, the numbers of their strategic weapons. If a Start deal is signed, the two leaders have said that they wish to go into a second round of negotiations. Start 2, could bring the level of strategic warheads on each side to below five thousand. British possession of some 700 warheads would then be a legiti-

mate Soviet concern, some observers feel.

The British deterrent is excluded from the "non-circumvention" restrictions as a result of America's insistence on protecting its "existing patterns of co-operation". The Americans made clear at a high level this week that there has been no change in US policy. Mrs Thatcher will be concerned to avoid any commitment by the US that the D-5 Trident missile will be the last transfer of nuclear weapons technology across the Atlantic, since the knowledge that Trident would not be replaced would inevitably undermine its political authority as a deterrent.

She also knows that, because the British Trident force will still be so much smaller than that of the US, its missiles may have to carry more warheads than those of the Americans. That, too, may raise political pressures.

This year's defence white paper said that Britain would consider how best it might contribute to the arms control process if the US and Soviet nuclear arsenals were reduced "very substantially", but it said reductions in those arsenals would have to go much further "before we could even consider including the British deterrent in any future negotiations".

Mrs Thatcher will fly to Moscow tonight after addressing the Nato foreign ministers in Turnberry. She will have two hours of talks with Mr Gorbachov tomorrow, followed by a working lunch and talks with the Soviet Prime Minister, Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov and Defence Minister, Marshal Dmitri Yazov.

She will not, as has been hoped, see Mr Gorbachov in Kiev on Saturday. With the Supreme Soviet sitting over the weekend, the Soviet leader had to prepare a speech on his economic reform programme to deliver on Monday.

The Prime Minister yesterday expressed her full support for Mr Gorbachov and those reforms in an interview with Tass in which she said his decision to move to a market economy was the right one. She declined to express an opinion on whether the plans should be revised in the wake of public protests and panic buying, but said: "Economic reform is always painful in its early stages." It was the only way to ensure "an effective, prosperous and stable economy for the future".

Nato talks, page 8  
Jargon of peace, page 12  
Leading article, page 13  
Soviet turmoil, page 22

## English fans held after 'mini-riot' in Tunisia

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT, TUNIS

FOURTEEN English football supporters in Tunisia for a friendly football match will appear in court today after a drunken rampage through the Hammamet holiday resort.

Trouble began when they were thrown out of a discotheque in the early hours of Tuesday morning and refused entry to another. In what was described as a mini-riot, the British Embassy said the supporters were alleged to have smashed the windows of three tourist coaches and three

taxis. They also denied the bodywork of the taxis, causing around £6,000 damage.

Other reports say that Tunisian youths angered the fans by taunting them over the match result - a 1-1 draw.

The supporters, in their mid-twenties, were in court yesterday for a preliminary hearing and will today face a full hearing. If found guilty, they could be jailed for up to five years.

World Cup, pages 43, 44

## Canterbury dark horse frightens the bookies

By ALAN HAMILTON

WILLIAM HILL, the bookmakers, suspended betting on another big race yesterday after a sudden and inexplicable rush of interest in a relative outsider. Suspensions were aroused when a string of punters wished, apparently out of the blue, to wager up to £1,000 on the Right Rev John Taylor, Bishop of St Albans, becoming the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

When Hills opened their ecclesiastical book in March, St Albans attracted little interest as a 10-1 outsider during the occasional modest investment of no more than £20. Yesterday morning, as their offices were more preoccupied with the Derby, Hills accepted several bets of £200. As lunchtime approached, and punters tried to place even greater wagers, including one of £1,000 at their branch nearest to Church House, West-

minster, alarm bells rang and the book was quickly closed. "We would like to know what these people know," a Hills spokesman said. "We do not, unfortunately, have a direct line to the Almighty." Until yesterday Hills' favourite had been the Right Rev John Waine, Bishop of Chelmsford, at 11-4. Even in Anglican circles, St Albans has not hitherto been regarded as being up among the front runners. The Crown Appointments Commission, which after much deliberation will put up two names for the Prime Minister's consideration, has not even met. An informed leak therefore appeared unlikely.

Later in the day the mystery was partly clarified. The Church of England Newspaper had published an opinion poll giving St Albans 42 per cent of the vote, and making him clear favourite in that particular camp. The newspaper is re-

garded as an organ of the Evangelical wing of the Church, to whom St Albans has particular appeal.

Hills said that they would reopen the book by the end of the week, provided they were satisfied that no other skulduggery was afoot. St Albans will then probably lead the field as 2-1 favourite. Ladbrokes, on the other hand, were entirely unconcerned. Their book, which has Dr John Habgood, the Archbishop of York, as favourite at 3-1, remained open to all investors. Their spokesman did admit, however, that St Albans had moved in from a 14-1 outsider to 4-1 fourth favourite in the past three weeks.

Bishop Taylor yesterday congratulated Hills on their prudence, and advised them to close their book permanently. "I do not regard myself as a horse," he said.



Easy going: Two Derby Day racegoers in traditional dress and traditional pose discussing form before the rains came down at Epsom yesterday

## Wet and windy winning Quest

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE withdrawal of so many fancied runners meant that this year's race had been unduly dubbed the Donkey Derby. Ante-post betting was down by a third, and Epsom Downs showed much empty grass. But all the old regulars were there: five Gipsy Rose Lees, one Rosa, one Friscilla, and, inexplicably, a Gipsy Doreen Lee doing brisk business reading palms and tea-leaves among the screams of riders in the funfair, and the all-pervading scent of hamburgers and onions.

If the event proved more colourful than usual it was, finally, because of the rain. Women who defied the weather forecast - wet and windy - and sported wide-brimmed millinery were obliged to titter around with one hand planted firmly on their heads. When the rain began to fall, just in time for the first race, it produced a plethora of large and brilliantly-coloured umbrellas in the enclosures and along the rails.

Before the big race the Queen, in canary yellow, and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, in pale primrose, made their traditional walk down the course to the paddock. The Queen Mother made the going - officially described as good - look pretty easy for an 89-year-old, though she did accept a limousine ride back.

As the rain set in more earnestly over the Derby runners' parade the Queen Mother raised her own umbrella - a transparent cloche, creating her own greenhouse effect while retaining good visibility. The Queen went for unadorned, functional black.

When the race was run, Quest for Fame proved a conclusive and popular winner. He was still slobbering effusively over his stable lad's jacket in the winner's enclosure when driving drizzle persuaded many racegoers to head for home.

Derby reports, pages 40, 41, 44

## European vets back Gummer by declaring British beef safe

FROM MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT, IN BRUSSELS

A COMMITTEE of European veterinary experts ruled yesterday that British beef was safe to eat, crucially reinforcing the position of Mr John Gummer, the Agriculture Minister, as he fought a stiff battle to get French, West German and Italian import bans lifted.

As Mr Gummer arrived here for a meeting with European Community counterparts, Italy disclosed it had also imposed a ban on British beef but had hitherto omitted to tell anyone. "We do things quietly in Italy," an Italian government spokesman said. The Italians bought 2,100 tonnes of British beef last year, worth £6.5 million.

Mr Gummer, hailing the verdict of the EC's scientific veterinary committee, said: "We have always said we would accept the scientific evidence. What the scientists have asked us to do, we are already doing, and will continue to do. We are legally correct, and what we want is

perfectly reasonable. Our case is very good."

After four hours of talks, a spokesman for Mr Michael O'Kennedy, the Irish Agriculture Minister, who was chairing the meeting, said he was not optimistic that there would be an early settlement.

M Henri Nallet, the French minister, said the committee had not removed scientific uncertainty about whether bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) could be transmitted to humans and extra Community-wide measures were needed to prevent "the type of psychosis that has afflicted British consumers" from spreading to the rest of the EC.

French sources said M Nallet wanted all beef exported from Britain to be accompanied by a veterinary certificate stating it came from animals which, by post-mortem brain examination, were shown to be free of BSE. The Italian and West German ministers insisted that they

had acted simply to protect public health. Mr Gummer said the import bans were pure trade protectionism.

France last week banned the 70,000 tonnes of beef and 160,000 live cattle it normally imports from Britain, ostensibly to protect its consumers against possible infection by BSE. The trade was worth £183 million last year, France accounting for more than half of Britain's worldwide beef and cattle exports.

The French move prompted West Germany, which since the start of the year had been operating much more limited restrictions on health grounds, to follow suit because of fears that British beef no longer able to enter France would swamp the West German market. The bans are estimated to be costing Britain £500,000 a day in lost export earnings. The West German Farmers' Federation yesterday called for an immediate ban on the import of calves from Britain. Mr Gummer refused to be drawn

on possible retaliation if the bans were not lifted. "I particularly dislike the word 'retaliation'. I want a return to legality. It is not in anybody's interest to undermine the Community. I want to win this battle on the basis of the scientific evidence."

British farmers have called for a ban on EC beef imports - some 184,000 tonnes last year. Ireland, the largest supplier, has not banned UK beef.

If Mr Gummer were to retaliate, eggs and dairy products might be a more likely target. Britain could claim there is a listeria threat from French soft cheeses. The British egg-laying poultry flock is subject to much stronger anti-salmonella measures than are enforced in other countries and British poultry farmers have been pressing for months for curbs on egg imports.

Portugal has banned the import of British cattle because of fears over BSE.

Tokyo notebook, page 11

## Labour undercuts Tories on CO2

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY AND ROBIN OAKLEY

THE political battle over the environment intensified yesterday when Labour, in its most serious environmental commitment so far, pledged to stabilize Britain's emissions of carbon dioxide five years ahead of the Government's target date of 2005.

Mrs Thatcher was said yesterday to regard such a target as impossible to achieve at an acceptable cost to employment and living standards. Mr Chris Patten, the Environment Secretary, warned that it would involve "major disruption to the economy".

In the background was a furious row over Labour charges that the Government had massaged the figures over CO2 emissions, which are largely responsible for global warming, to make its own efforts look more favourable.

That was vehemently denied in government circles. Mr Bryan Gould and Mr Frank Dobson, spokesmen for the environment and energy, committed Labour to the European Commission's proposals for stabilization by 2000. This will be resisted by Mr Patten at what is expected to be a stormy European environment ministers in Luxembourg today and tomorrow.

Last week Mr Jonathon Porritt, the retiring director of Friends of the Earth, said that Labour's lack of a CO2 target was "a worrying touchstone of their green seriousness." But yesterday Mr Gould and Mr Dobson said Labour was drawing up a strategy for the 2000 target, which would be published in its "Alternative

Continued on page 22, col 7

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# Zero alcohol limit for young drivers has built-in drawbacks

By KEVIN EASON  
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 20 deaths and serious injuries every day among young drivers has convinced Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, that they must be the target of special legislation.

Evidence compiled by Department of Transport researchers shows that drivers in the 18-30 age group accounted for almost half of all road deaths and serious injuries in 1988 - 7,852 out of 17,576. The carnage is even worse in the key group of 20 to 24 year olds. Almost 3,650 were killed or seriously injured in the same year.

Worse still, roadside tests carried out by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory show that drivers between the ages of 20 and 30 are the most likely to be over the legal alcohol limit behind the wheel. Almost 67 per cent of drivers

up to twice the limit came from that age group. Despite the mounting evidence, Britain has lagged behind much of Europe and the rest of the world in pinpointing the young or inexperienced driver as a high risk road user. France, West Germany, Portugal, Finland, Japan, Australia and Northern Ireland have schemes aimed at reining in the young motorist who passes his or her test and takes straight to the roads.

What Mr Parkinson will have to decide after consultations with motoring organizations, police and pressure groups is how far he can go in selecting one group for especially tough treatment. The most radical proposal - to enforce a zero alcohol limit on newly qualified drivers for the first two years of motoring - seems unworkable at the outset. It was greeted with disquiet by Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Selly Oak, who said the

clampdown could mean that "even a wine gum or taking a snuff at the barmaid's apron" could convict people.

Police officers say that a zero limit could cause more problems than benefits. They maintain their belief that random testing is still the best deterrent against drinking and driving for any age group. Mr Walter Given, chief constable of Wiltshire and secretary of the Association of Chief Police Officers' traffic committee, said yesterday: "It has been shown that alcohol can stay in the blood for some time. We foresee difficulties where a new driver had a drink one day and still has traces of alcohol the next when he or she is tested."

Another drawback is that identification of newly qualified drivers may prove difficult as driving test pass dates are not printed on licences at the moment. However, police may still be

receptive to a scheme to force such drivers to be identified with a designation plate on their cars and face restrictions on driving.

New drivers in Northern Ireland are forced to carry an "R" plate (denoting restricted) for one year after passing their driving test and are restricted to a 45mph maximum speed. It was enough to reduce accidents.

A French scheme seems to have been more successful. There new drivers are limited to a top speed of 90 kmph (56 mph) for a year, and display a white 90 speed restriction plate on their cars. Authorities say it has helped to reduce accidents by about 15 per cent.

New drivers in West Germany do not suffer speed restrictions, but they do face a strict system of punishment by instruction. All drivers who rack up points for driving offences are eventually sent back for driving lessons, for which they pay

in addition to any fines. The points tally is reached quicker by a driver in the first two years after qualification and the teaching more expensive. In some cases, they must retest their driving test. Accidents have gone down between ten and 15 per cent, but police say traffic violations have been cut by half as a result.

Mr Parkinson is known to favour the "P" plate (to denote probationer for new drivers) scheme and probably a similar idea for convicted drunk drivers who would have an "R" plate on returning to the road.

Mr Parkinson said yesterday: "There is a growing realization that if you break the law and drink is involved you are in trouble. So the fact that there is a law will make people very wary of breaking it."

Leading article, page 13

## Airline chief attacks government controls

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways' continuing frustration at the Government's refusal to allow it unlimited room for expansion erupted last night in a hard-hitting speech from Lord King of Warrnaby, its chairman.

Lord King, who is furious at the decision to ask the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to investigate the airline's attempt to take a 20 per cent stake in Sabena World Airways, launched into a bitter attack, claiming that he was struggling "against not only the efforts of our competitors but the shackles imposed by our own government."

"I have no intention of dying a death by a thousand cuts," he said at the City banquet in the Mansion House. "The Secretary of State will finally either permit or block our participation in the Brussels hub. The future will not be determined by the UK Government, but our government may well decide whether we are to be part of that future."

Speaking on the spot where Churchill made one of his memorable wartime speeches, Lord King said: "On June 4 50 years ago we were called to prepare ourselves to fight on the beaches and on the landing grounds. The tide of commercial conflict has rolled over the beaches and the battle for the landing grounds has already been joined."

"The gateways of today are the airfields deep in the territories which they serve. A commercial battle is raging on the landing grounds of Europe which will determine whether

London will remain Europe's principal gateway for long-haul traffic or be displaced by Paris, Frankfurt or Amsterdam.

"The position of London as a great financial centre and of British Airways at the hub of a network of international routes are legacies which cannot be reinvented but can surely dissipate by wrong-headedness or by negligence."

"If this country wants to continue to have a major international airline, British Airways must be allowed to grow and face on reasonably equal terms the emerging air armadas of the 21st century."

He pleaded for urgent action to improve transport facilities to Heathrow through a new rail line linking the airport both with Paddington and Liverpool Street, for an early construction of a new terminal and for a new helicopter service at Heathrow.

"We need the support of our government in our fight for access to overseas markets as overseas airlines fight for access to ours. We need to operate in clear skies in which traffic is efficiently controlled. We need to operate from bases as adept and user-friendly as those from which our competitors fly."

In a final sideswipe at the airport owners, BAA, he said: "If London is to preserve its position, our airports must be organized to meet the needs of the airlines and their passengers - not as supermarkets or property companies."

Business News, page 23

## Retired policeman killed by car bomb

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER police reservist was killed yesterday and his wife critically injured, when a bomb attached to the underside of their car exploded as they drove through north Belfast.

Mr James Sefton, aged 65, who retired three years ago, is thought to have died instantly in the blast. His wife, Ellen, also 65, was "seriously ill" last night. The IRA yesterday evening claimed responsibility for the attack which, police believe, involved a Semtex bomb.

The explosion happened at about 10am as the couple drove towards the city centre down Ballygomartin Road. They had travelled only a couple of hundred yards and were passing a primary school when the device was activated.

Politicians from both communities were quick to condemn the killing - the 26th in Northern Ireland this year. Mr Alban Maginness, the local SDLP councillor, described it

as "callous, careless and sickening".

● A car believed to be the getaway vehicle used by IRA terrorists who shot dead an Army recruit and wounded two others in Lichfield, Staffordshire, six days ago, has been found 40 miles away in Shrewsbury (Craig Seton writes). Homes were evacuated yesterday while a bomb disposal team carried out controlled explosions to check if it contained explosives.

The red Ford Cortina, with a black vinyl roof, similar to one seen speeding away from the scene of the shooting, was found parked in Crewe Street, Shrewsbury, on Tuesday and had been kept under surveillance. If the car proves to be the getaway vehicle, it will be an important breakthrough by Staffordshire detectives investigating the shooting.

The two wounded soldiers, Private Neil Evans, aged 19, and Private Robert Parkin, aged 20, are recovering in hospital.

## Abortion conscience register attacked

By NICHOLAS WOOD  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A PROPOSAL to compel all doctors and nurses who refuse to take part in abortions on grounds of conscience to register their objection in a publicly available list has been bitterly denounced by MPs opposed to easier abortion.

Miss Ann Widdecombe, Conservative MP for Maidstone, a leading figure in the unsuccessful backbench attempt in April to lower the upper time limit for abortion to at most 22 weeks, said it was "grossly offensive".

She said that the proposal, set out in an amendment to the Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill, would be strongly resisted when it returns to the Commons for its final stages later this month.

Anti-abortion MPs have also tabled amendments, which are aimed at giving MPs a second chance of deciding whether they want "abortion up to birth". Their move follows the complicated series of late night votes at second reading, which backfired on the anti-abortion lobby by liberalizing the existing law.

The Commons decoupled abortion law from the effective 28-week limit imposed by the Infant Life Preservation Act and abolished all limits in cases of handicapped fetuses and where the mother's health was at grave risk. Miss Widdecombe argued that the register, which would be open to scrutiny by health authorities as well as the public in libraries, would jeopardize the career prospects of doctors opposed to abortion.

But its supporters insisted that it was needed to help women seeking an abortion to avoid unsympathetic doctors and so reduce delays.

Miss Jo Richardson, Labour's frontbench spokeswoman on women, who is sponsoring the amendment, said that far too many late abortions were caused by NHS delays.

● Concern that women are being unduly pressurised into donating eggs at infertility clinics was expressed by the chairman of the Interim Licensing Authority for Human In Vitro Fertilisation and Embryology yesterday. Dame Mary Donaldson was announcing new guidelines to protect donors.

The guidelines stress that donors should never be paid cash for their eggs. Donors will also be allowed to withdraw at any stage without incurring any cost.

Explaining the guidelines, Dame Mary said: "We are very concerned about inducements offered to women to offer eggs. Centres are increasingly advertising for egg donors. There is a general concern about inducements."

She also voiced concern at the poor success rate of some clinics. Latest annual figures for test tube births, published in the authority's fifth and penultimate report, show a drop in successful live births from 10.1 per cent of infertility treatments to 9.1 per cent; even though the pregnancy rate went up.



Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Transport Secretary, trying on a motorcycle rider's helmet at Potters Bar yesterday at the opening of a safety scheme for pizza delivery riders

## Split on strip mill closure

By SHEILA GUNN  
POLITICAL REPORTER

A DISPUTE on whether to launch a parliamentary inquiry into British Steel's closure of the Ravenscraig strip mill has split the Commons trade and industry committee.

After a heated private session yesterday, the Tory-dominated committee agreed to ask for written evidence from the trade unions representing the 770 workers who lost their jobs at the Motherwell plant.

The committee already has evidence from British Steel and will consider calling Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, after receiving all the written evidence. However Mr Menzies Campbell, Liberal Democrat MP for North East Fife, failed to persuade the committee to mount a full-scale investigation immediately.

Mr Rifkind admitted in the Commons yesterday that he is still trying to get information from British Steel about its plans for the strip mill. The Scottish Secretary has strongly condemned the closure.

Parliament, page 7

## Firms will quit UK unless tunnel links get funds, CBI says

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESS firms will migrate to northern France unless British firms invest more in new road and rail links to serve the Channel tunnel, Mr John Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, said yesterday.

Without additional transport infrastructure, London would become a "cork in a bottle", effectively starving northern England, the South-west and south Wales of the investment in manufacturing and commerce that they need to compete in the European single market, he said.

Mr Banham said that France was planning substantial investment in high-speed rail links and a doubling of its motorway network during the next decade, while Britain appeared content with more modest investments.

The future of Britain's proposed high-speed rail link, which would go some way to alleviate the concerns of Mr Banham and other business leaders, remains in the balance while the Government decides whether to back the

## Clarke defends eye test figures after poll doubts

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government cast doubt last night on the credibility of an opinion poll it commissioned into the number of people having eye tests amid arguments about the effects of charging for eye examinations.

As Labour revealed figures showing a drop of more than three million in eye tests since charges were introduced, Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, said a recent poll suggested there had been no real reduction in demand for sight tests.

Mr Clarke produced figures from an NOP poll, commissioned by the Department of Health, which indicated that five million adults and children had sight tests in the first quarter of the year. An assessment of the poll by the department, however, admits that there is a disparity between the NOP's results and the known number of NHS sight tests paid for in the first three months of the year.

The assessment said: "The disparity between the NOP's results for NHS sight testing and the known number of NHS sight tests paid for casts some doubt on the credibility of the results."

It suggests that the disparity might have been caused by "over reporting". Defending the Government's policy, Mr Clarke said even if the NOP survey, suggesting that five million people had eye tests in the first quarter of 1990, was 50 per cent higher than the true figure it would still be in line with projected increases based on the 10 years to 1987.

He said: "The past 15 months seem to have been entirely consistent with what any reasonable person might have expected. There was a rush before the changes were introduced when 4.5 million people - an abnormally high number - had their sight tested in the first three months of 1989. There was then an inevitable dip, after which the number of sight tests recovered to their former normal levels."

Figures produced from surveys conducted by optometrists contradicted Mr Clarke's assertion. While the Department of Health recorded 13.2 million eye

examinations in 1988-1989 data produced by the optometrists showed only 8.9 million were undertaken in the following year.

Mr Robin Cook, Opposition health spokesman, gave a warning that this would mean thousands of cases of serious eye conditions would remain undetected with a potential threat to their sight.

It was not just people's sight that was at risk by the ending of free eye tests but other illnesses were being detected during tests, he added. "I am deeply concerned that people's lives are being put at risk by the Government's apparent determination to privatize health services."

The figures from the optometrists showed, he said, that the average number of sight tests fell by 32.4 per cent between the years 1988-1989 and 1989-1990 when charges were introduced.

The optometrist survey was conducted among less than 10 per cent of the 6,500 practices in England and Wales. About 40 per cent of people can still get free eye tests but private firms charge others about £12.

The NOP survey was undertaken between March 21 and April 23 this year among a sample of 9,518 people and achieved an overall response rate of about 50 per cent.

## £5,000 bail for crash driver

THE driver in the holiday coach disaster was last night set to be freed on £5,000 bail after being told from his hospital bed he has been charged with manslaughter of 11 British tourists.

John Johnston, aged 42, of Chell Heath, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, was questioned for 90 minutes in hospital by the examining magistrate in charge of the case.

He is accused of manslaughter, involuntary wounding, and speeding, after the coach veered out of control off a motorway and crashed, killing 11 and injuring 60. He was told he would be free to leave France if he paid the surety. News of the charges was broken to him in hospital by Mr James Daly, British Consul-General in Paris.

## Passport find

FIVE men and a woman were being questioned yesterday by Sussex police in connection with forged British passports. They were among 11 people arrested in a series of raids on Tuesday in Brighton and Newhaven. Five were later released on police bail.

## Reward doubled

The reward for information about the killers of Mr Rajibhaji Patel, the sub-postmaster shot dead in Hackney, north-east London, has been doubled to £20,000 by the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters. It warned members not to risk their lives to protect post office money.

## Report 'misled'

A headline report in *The Independent* about radioactive soil dumping was misleading because it implied that the waste site was not legally authorized to take it, the Press Council says today, upholding a complaint by a waste firm, the Shanks and McEwan group, of Aylesbury, Bucks.

## Polish service

THE BBC is to begin broadcasting on Polish radio via satellite in the first formal arrangement with the eastern bloc. Mr John Tusa, managing director of the BBC World Service, said yesterday. Satellite transmission will begin next month with the launch of the new Eutelsat satellite.

## Abbey service

Mrs Thatcher, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and Lord Maclay of Clashfern were among those who attended a memorial service for Lord Bruce-Clarke, the former Treasury minister and journalist, at St Margaret's, Westminster, yesterday.

Memorial service, page 14

## Pavement performance in effort to save the Dominion

MICHAEL POWELL



Tom Conti, the actor, campaigning yesterday to save the Dominion Theatre, London, with Natalie Wright, aged 16, who plays the lead role in *Bernardine*

ACTORS and conservationists were joined yesterday in a demonstration outside the Dominion Theatre, in Tottenham Court Road, central London, by the cast of the new musical *Bernardine* as the campaign to save the theatre from demolition and replacement by a hotel was stepped up.

"People come to London for the Queen, the old times and for the theatre," said the actor Tom Conti. "To destroy this for a hotel complex which they won't be able to fill would be committing an act of supreme folly."

The 2,000-seat theatre, at which *Bernardine* is to open in two weeks' time, is to be the subject of a planning inquiry into the proposal to replace the Grade Two listed building with a 354-bedroom hotel, shops and offices. Planning consent was refused by Camden council. The inquiry, which was to have opened on

June 12, has been postponed for four months because a partner in the development consortium, Rush & Tomkins, the builder, has gone into receivership. The delay is to allow Savetex, leaseholder of the site, to make new partnership arrangements.

The theatre, built in 1929 to show both drama and films, is one of only six left in the West End that can accommodate audiences of more than 2,000. A campaign to save it was launched last month by the Theatres Trust, the Save London's Theatres Campaign, the Society of West End Theatre, the Theatres Advisory Council, Equity, the Musicians' Union and English Heritage.

"The land on which the theatre stands is worth infinitely more than the theatre itself," said Mr John Earl, director of the Theatres Trust, who said it ran into "mega-millions".

He said: "I know that there are at least two offers on the table from producers to buy the theatre, but it isn't for sale. If it were, producers would be crawling over each other to get it because it's exactly what we need for the musicals that are so popular now. We cannot afford to lose this theatre - if we do, it will be the first West End theatre to be demolished in more than 20 years and the first 2,000-seater for 30 years."

● Dave Clark, the 1960s pop singer, yesterday began a £13.5 million damages claim in the High Court against the "inefficient" Dominion Theatre, which staged his musical, *Time*. The claim for lost seat sales is against Rank Theatres, which he blames for the show closing early after a two-year run.

In the action, before Mr Justice Millett, Mr Clark's production company claims that Rank failed to run an efficient box office to gain from "phenomenal" publicity.

Technology, page 35







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		Finance Charges	NIL	NIL	NIL
		Total Credit Price	£8760	£8910	£9065
1 Year	0%				
		Minimum Deposit 60%	£5256	£5346	
		Max. Repayment Period	24 months	24 months	
		Monthly Payment	£146	£148.50	
		Finance Charges	NIL	NIL	
		Total Credit Price	£8760	£8910	
2 Years	0%				
		Minimum Deposit 20%	£1762	£1782	£1817
		Max. Repayment Period	36 months	36 months	36 months
		Monthly Payment	£248.80	£244.32	£249.75
		Finance Charges	£1060.80	£1089.12	£1172.25
		Total Credit Price*	£10445.80	£10624.12	£10832.25
3 Years	7.9% p.a. 15.7% APR				
		Minimum Deposit 20%	£1762	£1782	£1817
		Max. Repayment Period	48 months	48 months	48 months
		Monthly Payment	£197.97	£201.36	£206.32
		Finance Charges	£2494.56	£2537.28	£2587.36
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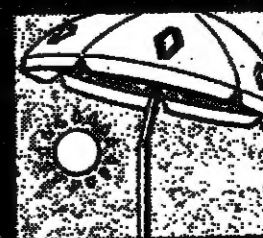
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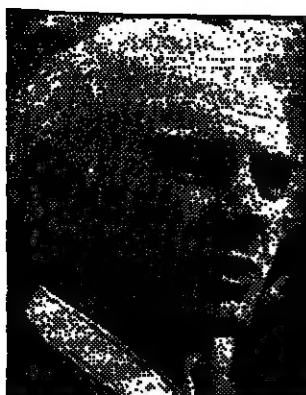


## Stolen bonds found in Cyprus

1000



# Better police communications 'could improve 999 service'



Mr Davies: 'Control room is the key to efficiency'

By STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE forces could provide an improved emergency service that also gives better value for money, according to a survey of police communications by the Audit Commission published today.

The report says that the 999 police emergency system operates with few checks on the time taken to answer calls, the suitability of the response and whether the police or public are satisfied. Without such monitoring, it is difficult to know how good the service is. Unlike the fire or ambulance services, no national

standards are set for emergency responses.

After several decades of introducing computer systems, the commission suggests that, although there is no evidence to show the 999 system is bad, many forces should consider reorganizing their systems to take advantage of the latest technology and make them more efficient.

The present communication and emergency systems cost £160 million a year to operate but £25 million a year could be saved by using more non-police staff, different shift patterns, modern telephone networks and information systems and reorganizing control

rooms. Chief constables are said to have welcomed suggestions in the report and some forces are already carrying out surveys of resources, one of the points covered.

The report says that police research shows that the public rates the response to urgent calls as one of its priorities. It costs £300,000 a year to keep a mobile two-man crew on the road 24 hours a day, equal to 10 community beat officers working an eight-hour day.

Mr Howard Davies, Controller of the Audit, said: "The effectiveness of police communications rooms is a key factor in determining the quality of service provided to the public and ensuring the

effective use of police officers on patrol. Our study found that many forces could provide a much improved service that also gives better value for money."

The report notes that the provincial police-call system handles 40 million calls a year of which 12 million are emergency calls. About 65,000 officers are deployed to 17 million incidents of which six million need urgent attention.

The report was based on surveys of 15 forces ranging from the main provincial forces such as Greater Manchester, the West Midlands and West Yorkshire to Thames Valley, the largest shire force, and small forces including Dorset.

Only the Northamptonshire force, which has a reputation for advanced management and carrying out value-for-money exercises, was found to be checking the time taken to answer calls.

Forces have adopted different types of communication systems ranging from a central control to a two-tier system including smaller local control rooms. Costs vary from £1,260 per officer to £2,160 per officer.

Research on one force showed that 27 per cent of calls to a sub-division communications room were not answered within 30 seconds and in more than 80 per cent of those cases the caller rang

off before being answered. Some forces have logging systems showing where officers are working but these are not always kept up-to-date and in one force a random test showed information on 12 officers was out of date.

Monitoring the time taken for officers to reach urgent situations has been abandoned because they often fail to report their arrival, unlike ambulance or fire crews. Within control rooms, monitoring is needed to check how resources are used, the report says. Control room staff could have their hours tailored to the periods of greatest need and surveys could be carried out to assess public satisfaction.

## Teachers will have more freedom in geography lessons

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

TEACHERS are to be given more freedom in teaching the National Curriculum after final recommendations yesterday from the geography working party. It is the first report to be published since Mrs Margaret Thatcher said last Easter that she thought the curriculum was too restrictive and prevented teachers using their individual skills.

The working party's interim report published last November was criticized by teachers for much the same reasons. They said that it covered too much ground and was too prescriptive. The final version allows teachers more time to organize their own work within a compulsory framework.

Sir Leslie Fielding, vice-chancellor of Sussex University and chairman of the working party, said he did not believe the group had been influenced by the Prime Minister. He said: "We were going to address the problem anyway. Inside the group we felt that we should produce a slimmed-down report to avoid overload. It is more teacher friendly and something that they can use."

"We thought that teachers should be given more freedom. They will have more flexibility to use their own

materials and methods but they will not be free to do what they like. We have spelt out the programmes of study and hope teachers will turn to that."

Sir Leslie said that although the report had been trimmed it contained the essential ingredients of the interim report published last November. A significant change was the move away from dividing the world into two, North and South, the developed and underdeveloped world.

He said: "That did meet some criticism and we felt that it would be difficult to sustain. There were also one or two matters who wrote to say we were turning the world into white geography and black geography." Pupils will now have to study their home area and region, the United Kingdom within the European Community and the wider world.

Other areas of study will be geographical skills, including the use of maps and diagrams and fieldwork; physical geography to develop a knowledge of weather and climate, rivers and seas, landforms, animals, plants and soils; human geography, giving an understanding of population, settlements, communications and movements and economic activities.

ities; and environmental geography to give an understanding of the use and misuse of natural resources, the quality and vulnerability of protecting environments.

The working party is critical of the teaching of geography in England and Wales. "The neglect of geography in primary schools is in our view the most serious weakness." The group adds that many pupils aged 16 leave school with very little knowledge of geography with the result that their knowledge of locations, places and environments is "very uneven". Under the proposals children aged six to 16 will be expected to have the equivalent of at least three lessons in a 40-period week, while GCSE pupils will have an extra period.

Last night, Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said: "These proposals aim to establish a firm foundation for school geography. A sound knowledge of geography is essential for pupils to develop an informed appreciation and understanding of the world in which they are growing up and in which they will live and work as adults."

The report has gone to the National Curriculum Council for consultation to be completed by September so that final recommendations for lessons can be sent to Mr MacGregor by November.

National Curriculum lessons in mathematics, English and science were introduced last year. Technology will enter the schools this autumn to be followed by geography and history in 1991. Art, music and physical education, and a compulsory modern languages for those aged 11 to 16, are scheduled for autumn 1992.

Leading article, page 13

## School wins battle to opt-out

THE long battle for Beechen Cliff School, Bath, to opt-out of state control is officially over. Opposition from the county council crumbled with a landslide vote yesterday against further action.

Leaders of the council's education committee unanimously agreed not to appeal against the ruling by Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to allow the 800-pupil school to opt-out. The school's fight for independence, allowed under the 1988 Education Reform Act, has been seen as a test case. Mr James Ewing, governor of the school, said the decision "means stability and a sure future".



Poster modernism: Political posters in "Collecting for the Future: a Decade of Contemporary Acquisitions", an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, central London, which attempts to explain how a museum acquires items of design and craft. It runs until August 12.

## Formula to pick councils for tax capping 'unfair'

By JAMIE DETTMER

THE formula used by the Government in its decision to cap 21 local authorities for setting high poll taxes threw up "hopeless distortions" and unfairly branded some councils as profligate, the High Court was told yesterday.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, representing four of the capped authorities, claimed that the approach adopted by Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, was bound to produce anomalies.

Disparities in the figures used to judge whether community charge levels were excessive were highlighted by Mr Henderson, who said the Government had acted unlawfully by capping the councils.

The attack on Mr Patten came on the second day of an application by 19 capped authorities seeking a judicial review of the Government's use of the 1988 Local Finance Act to impose spending cuts.

The councils are asking the High Court to rule that Mr Patten acted unlawfully in ordering them to cut their poll taxes. The National Union of Teachers and two school governors from the London borough of Brent have joined in the action.

Mr Henderson cited the case of Haringey council. He said there was a disparity between the final figures used by Mr Patten in his formula which were "out of kilter by percentages of more than 100

per cent" when it came to assessing the outstanding level of debt for Haringey.

The first "principle" on which Mr Patten had judged an authority's budget excessive - exceeding the Government's Standard Spending Assessment by at least 675 per cent - was not a principle but an arbitrary figure. It was unfair because it favoured authorities which were set low government target spending figures, Mr Henderson said.

He told Lord Justice Leggatt, Mr Justice McCullough and Mr Justice Roch that capping was a "drastic step" which had serious financial consequences for local authorities and created uncertainty for charge payers.

The 19 councils involved in the action are: Avon, Barnsley, Basildon, Brent, Bristol, Calderdale, Camden, Derbyshire, Doncaster, Greenwich, Hammersmith, Haringey, Islington, Lambeth, North Tyneside, Rochdale, Rotherham, St Helens and Southwark. None are Conservative controlled.

In the case of Rotherham, Mr Henderson said its "modest" budget figures for education spending showed it was hardly a profligate authority. Rotherham had been assessed by the European Community as "a very poor area" which should spend more on education, he said.

The hearing continues today.

## New car sales slump as high interest rates bite

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CAR sales slumped in May as the Government's attack on borrowing severely dampened High Street spending and forced cost-cutting in industry. Figures released yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show that heavy discounting and special offers at thousands of showrooms have failed to attract customers into investing in new cars at a time of high interest rates.

The May figures, down 12.7 per cent compared with the same month last year, underline the drop in sales of new cars after a record year for manufacturers in 1989.

Dealers now fear an even fiercer discount war as manufacturers try to rebuild their market share. The SMMT figures show that Ford, Vauxhall, Rover, Peugeot Talbot, Nissan and Jaguar have lost substantially during this year.

Ford, although still leading with about a quarter of the new car market, has slipped in the first five months of the year to 231,172 from 276,823 in the same period of 1989. Rover sales fell from 139,353 to 130,253. Nissan from 63,974 to 50,323 and Peugeot from 61,855 to 55,217.

Vauxhall sales, mainly through its Cavalier model which now heads the list for the first part of the year, has maintained sales although they, too, are falling - down from 154,197 to 151,987 for a 15 per cent market share.

Japanese importers have had large sales increases in the

first five months. Their share of imported cars has risen to 57.04 per cent compared with 55.84 per cent in 1989. Mazda sales are up from 7,776 to 9,543. Mitsubishi, from 4,316 to 5,347, and Honda, 9,277 to 13,063.

The rapid fall of sales during May, traditionally regarded as a busy month, could be followed by two severe months. June and July are the quietest period with buyers saving for the new "H" registration plate on August 1. The SMMT is now revising its estimates downwards for the full year sales total while manufacturers face a summer sales war as they attempt to keep production output moving through the dealers.

Private buyers are staying away from showrooms, put off by high prices and interest rates, which remain high throughout the term of the loan. Showrooms have been slashing sticker prices by up to £1,500 but those cuts are severely denting second-hand prices when buyers sell their own cars.

The decline in the company sector is also worrying manufacturers. It accounts for half of all new car sales, especially for luxury models from key manufacturers such as Jaguar, Mercedes and BMW.

Top 10 cars from January to May this year are: 1, Vauxhall Cavalier (66,479); 2, Ford Sierra (66,317); 3, Ford Fiesta (64,759); 4, Ford Escort (64,468); 5, Vauxhall Astra (48,381); 6, Rover Metro (35,823); 7, Rover 200 (32,715); 8, Vauxhall Nova (24,783); 9, VW Golf (22,751); 10, Peugeot 205 (22,646).

## Japanese models dominate league for reliability

By OUR MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

JAPANESE cars dominate a list of the most reliable cars on British roads published today by the Consumers' Association *Which?* magazine.

Rover wins a high placing in the reliability table with its 213 model, manufactured at Longbridge, Birmingham, designed in collaboration with Honda of Japan and powered by a Honda engine. Ford and Vauxhall, which sell the most cars in Britain, are both regarded as average in the league table of 21 car makers.

The list of manufacturers whose models show better-than-average reliability records is headed by Honda, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Nissan and Toyota for cars made in the past two years. For cars made between 1985 and 1987, the same five line up. They are joined by Subaru and two European manufacturers, Mercedes and Saab.

The magazine, which took reports from 46,000 cars, said that cars from almost every manufacturer were becoming more reliable. "We are still a long way from the point at which cars are so reliable that we can stop worrying and there are still very great differences between good and poor cars."

Rover, criticized in previous surveys, won some praise from *Which?* for its recovery which brought the 213 "baby" Rover saloons into the reliability listings for the first time. *Which?* says: "Collaboration with Honda is producing an upturn in Rover's fortunes. Honda-engine models are fair to good for reliability."

Last night, Rover said it was wary of the magazine's sample sizes, saying that they could

not reflect the large numbers of cars sold by British manufacturers in the home market to millions of satisfied customers. "We sell more than 300,000 cars a year in this country and the total *Which?* sample for the whole of Rover's products over eight years was just 1,400 cars," a spokesman said.

"We are very pleased that *Which?* is reporting some success of Rover cars. Our customers tell the whole story, especially increasing numbers of fleet customers who would not buy our cars without the confidence that they were reliable."

The new Ford Fiesta is rated as average as is the Escort. Vauxhall gets a better than average for its Astra/Belmont 1600 series.

Japanese cars also share most of the honours in the magazine's annual guide to "Best Buys" for 1990. The Toyota Corolla and the Nissan Sunny are both considered best buys in the category for small family models and the Toyota Carina wins the larger family car section.

There is some good news again for Rover, with the new Land Rover Discovery, tipped as the best buy among four-wheel-drive vehicles. The French-built Peugeot 205 was judged best buy among supermini models.

The most reliable cars made during 1988-89, judged by *Which?* were: minis and superminis, Peugeot 205 diesel; small family cars, Toyota Corolla; Vauxhall Astra/Belmont; VW Golf/Jetta; larger family cars, Citroen BX diesel, Honda Accord, Mazda 626, Nissan Bluebird, Toyota Carina; large cars, Volvo 700.

## Rules on art export 'outdated'

By JOHN SHAW

AN URGENT overhaul of regulations governing the export of works of art was called for yesterday by Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the National Art Collections Fund.

The inadequacy of present legislation in the face of rising art prices had been demonstrated by the case of "The Three Graces". The approaching free market in 1992 made reform imperative.

Sir Nicholas, a former chairman of the Stock Exchange, told the fund's annual meeting in London that new legislation was needed to safeguard export-stopped works of art bought by private buyers.

The 1939 emergency legislation was out-dated and responsibility for export decisions needed to be moved from the Department of Trade and Industry to the Office of Arts and Libraries.

The fund spent over £2 million last year helping institutions throughout the country to buy works of art

## Cash problems threatening a Regency revival

By JOHN YOUNG

A SIX-YEAR project to restore a Regency house in Brunswick Square, Hove, to its original early 19th-century appearance and to open it to the public is jeopardized by a lack of funds. Unless the owners can raise about £100,000 to complete the restoration, it may have to be sold and divided once again into flats.

Brunswick Square is widely regarded as a supreme example of Regency townscapes, but after the aristocracy stopped frequenting it, many of the houses fell into disrepair. When Mr Nick Tyson and Miss Margrit Bass moved into the basement of No 13, the property was in danger of collapse and part of it had been condemned as unfit for habitation. However, in the past six years they have acquired the freehold of the property, and, as tenants have left, have restored rooms to their original appearance.

The work has involved painstaking rebuilding and restoration of cornicing, architraves, door and window casings and shutters. The roof has been re-covered with slates

from the Welsh quarry that provided the originals, and the lead work has been restored by Mr Paul Vincent, who was also responsible for the restoration of the domes of the Brighton Pavilion.

Mr Tyson hopes to complete the restoration and open the house to the public in time for next year's Brighton Festival. He believes that it would complement the pavilion by showing how court followers of George IV lived when they went down to Brighton for the summer season.

He has had considerable help from companies including Pilkington Glass, British Steel, Potterton, and Honeywell. A number of craftsmen have given their services free, and Laura Ashley has offered to provide the curtains and wallpaper. Mr John Mosley, former director of the pavilion and keeper of furniture at the Victoria and Albert Museum, has said that he can provide pictures and furnishings in time for the festival.

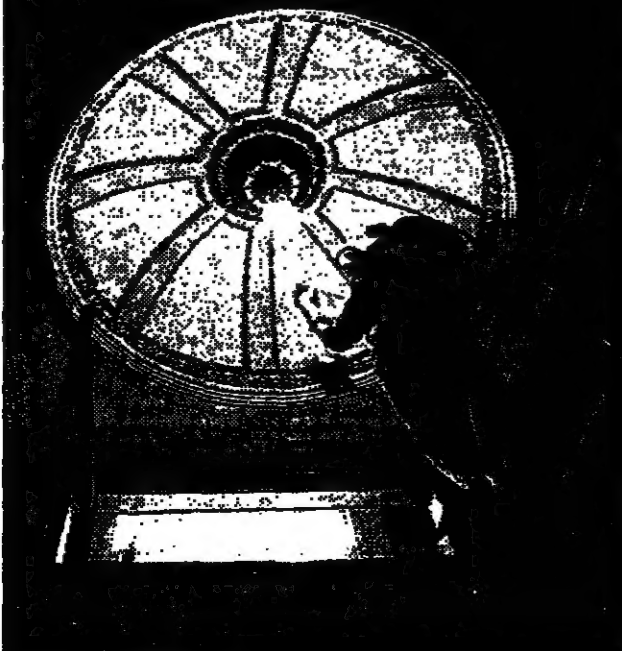
Mr Tyson has spent some £257,000 on the project but, although he has received some improvement grants from

Hove Borough Council, national bodies have declined to help.

Since, like all the houses in the square, the property is listed Grade One, Mr Tyson could normally have expected a grant of at least 40 per cent from English Heritage. However, because it did not own the house when the restoration began, he was not eligible for a grant in advance, and he has now been told that it is not English Heritage's policy to pay grants retrospectively.

Mr Michael Ray, Hove council's chief planning officer, said: "For years we have felt that one fine Regency terrace house should be open to the public. Like the Georgian House in Bath. These two young people have done it for a fraction of what it would have cost the council."

Mr Tyson estimates that he needs about £100,000 to ensure his dream is finally realized. "The thought of having to walk away from all we have done and give it up is very frightening," he said yesterday. "It is torture to be so close and not to be able to finish the task."



Work on restoring the dome above the stairway of 13 Brunswick Square, Hove, for public viewing



# Cook in row over 'three million drop' in eye tests

SINCE charges for eye tests by opticians were introduced just over a year ago, the number of tests has fallen by three million, Labour said in the Commons yesterday.

Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health, opening a debate on eye test charges, said that the fall in the number of referrals to specialists and the number of eye tests being undertaken.

One of the priorities of the next Labour Government would be to introduce free eye tests, he said.

During heated exchanges, Mr

## Bill would aid tunnel 'victims'

HOUSEHOLDERS who had to suffer all the problems of noise pollution, disturbance and lower property values as a result of big road or rail projects such as the proposed Channel tunnel high-speed link should not also have to wait a year after the project was completed before they could claim compensation, Miss Anna Widdowson (Maidstone, C) said in the Commons.

Seeking leave under the 10-minute rule to introduce the Lajurine Affection (Amendment) Bill, she said that people living in Kent just outside the 240-metre corridor of the tunnel link would not have their properties acquired by compulsory purchase.

They did, however, suffer uncertainty while the scheme was being planned, nuisance during building work and the "monstrous" imposition of having to wait another 12 months before they could claim compensation.

As things were going, it looked likely that the full Channel tunnel link would not be completed before the turn of the century.

The planning and compensation laws needed to be reviewed to see if they were adequate to meet the new phenomenon of the vast new railway construction. Constituents affected by consequent development of freight facilities could not claim any compensation unless there was negligence in the course of construction. If there were simple intensification of use, the Land Compensation Act provided no redress.

The Bill, which proposes that the 12 months' wait should be reduced to three months, was formally read a first time, but has little hope of making further progress.

### HEALTH

Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, suggested that the figures had been supplied by the opticians, who had a vested interest.

Mr Cook said that when Mr Clarke had announced the ending of free eye tests 18 months ago he had said that those who claimed it would deter people from getting eye tests would be wrong. Mr Clarke had said that there would be any deterrent effect. Mr Clarke had asked how many people would be deterred by a £10 charge.

"We can now answer that question: it is three million," he said. That figure had come from a number of independent surveys analysed by Professor Peter Hain, professor of statistics at Reading University. In the year ended in April, the number of eye tests was 8.9 million. "We have to go back to 1981 to find a year in which the number of eye tests were that low. Effectively, this Government has wiped out a whole decade of advance in services."

Mr Clarke intervened to point out that Mr Cook was relying on data provided by opticians, who had a vested interest in the replies they gave. A Mori poll of the public showed no apparent difference in the number of tests carried out.

Mr Cook said that the Secretary of State seemed to be implying that there was a conspiracy on the part of all those who had taken part in the surveys and by the opticians who had analysed them.

It was typical of the Government faced with the problem that it should have gone to a market research organization rather than to the opticians. But it was an established fact that such polls resulted in over-reporting. If the poll was to be believed, 15.25 million people had had eye tests.

"If that was correct, the only problem the profession would have had in the past year would have been how to get these people to form orderly queues at their doors."

Mr Clarke said that Mr Cook's proposition was based "on the absurd argument that so long as you only survey the opticians you can show there is a drop. But every time you survey the public, you show there has been no drop in eye tests at all."

Mr Cook accused Mr Clarke of casting a slur on a scientific profession by saying opticians were conspiring to conceal an increase and to deceive the House.

Mr Clarke asked if the only source of opinion to be relied on was that of a professional vested interest.

Mr Cook said that was a "breathtaking slur". Would he accept an independent audit of the books of opticians? "He will

not ask the optometrists how many they are treating because he dare not ask them."

Dame Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgbaston, C) said that if opticians' opticians were falsifying their books, it was a matter for the Inland Revenue.

Mr Cook agreed. He challenged Mr Clarke to repeat his allegations outside the cloak of parliamentary privilege.

Mr Clarke described Mr Cook's case as "a palpable myth" based on an inadequate and narrow survey.

Mr Cook said that the reduction of three million eye tests would mean a 160,000 fall in the number of referrals for medical examination. "These are the people with disturbing symptoms who are now being missed, members of the public who are unaware that their sight and maybe their health is at risk."

These would include 26,000 cases of cataract, 25,000 of glaucoma, 11,000 of hypertension and 13,000 of diabetes.

Mr Clarke had been dramatically wrong in his view that the introduction of the market had increased prices and reduced productivity and choice because 250 branches of independent optometrists had closed.

Competition had resulted in higher prices, a reduction in the number treated and a reduction in the number of places to be treated.

Mr Clarke said that the Government continued to pay for the eye test for a third of the population, including those on low incomes, young children and people susceptible to particular diseases.

Opticians preferred the system they had before. They could put up notices "NHS Eye Test: Free for All". They were perfectly proper to get people to come in and buy spectacles. The NHS provided them with a guaranteed income. The change meant that each optician had to decide whether to charge and to what extent. Some firms had decided not to do so.

He acknowledged the importance of eye tests in preventive medicine and that it did lead to the discovery of some diseases. But what people were being asked to pay was only £10 or £11 once every two years, an important part of their health care. Certainly, competition would be more widespread if the Labour Party stopped supporting the free eye test campaign.

Opticians were reluctant to allow a free market to break out when they thought they might get back to where they were before.

Labour, short on health policy, was giving way to commercial lobbying.

The cost of restoring the free eye tests would be £90 million, more than the budget of a reasonable-size health authority.



## Health board 'is incompetent'

LOTIAN Health Board's financial problems were the result of the incompetence of the board members, Labour's Scottish health spokesman said during questions.

Mr Samuel Galbraith described the situation as a shambles and said that ultimate responsibility rested with Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland. All the board members were appointed directly by Mr Rifkind and half of them were either directly or indirectly connected with the Conservative Party.

"Unless an increase in funding is made available to the board, the crisis will only be resolved by the Secretary of State rescuing on his promises, closing hospitals and introducing other measures that will directly affect patient care."

Mr Rifkind said that the Government had been helpful with regard to the problems of the Lothian board by indicating that the board would not be required this year to pay for the required last year. But it was crucially important that the board should gain control over its expenditure and resources.

All health boards in Scotland were funded in the same way, and the only one with financial difficulties that must result from mismanagement within the board itself.

Answering a question about the criteria for appointments to health boards in Scotland, Mr

Rifkind said that individuals were appointed on the basis of the contribution they could make to the duties and responsibilities of the board.

Mr Nigel Griffiths (Edinburgh South, Lab) asked whether Mr Rifkind realized that the cuts and panic closures of hospitals in the Lothian Region were an indictment of his system of appointments.

"Will he now ensure that the Lothian Health Board gets proper funding," he asked, "or will he go?"

Mr Rifkind said that he was anxious to ensure that health boards recognized and considered all the implications for health care in their region.

The problem had not been caused by underfunding; all boards in Scotland were funded in the same way. The fact that Lothian had severely overpaid was the result of internal financial mismanagement.

Mr Archie Kirkwood (Rossburgh South, Lib) asked whether Mr Rifkind would ask for an assurance that, if appointments were more business oriented, the Secretary of State would pay attention to the successor boards and see that they were properly funded.

Mr Rifkind said that he wished to ensure that there was the widest possible breadth of experience, consistent only with there being no conflict of interest between those who served on the health boards and those with financial associations with the provision of health care.

## Rifkind is still trying to get information

### RAVENSCRAIG

MR MALCOLM Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, is still trying to get information from British Steel about its plans to close the Ravenscraig hot strip mill at Motherwell, but at question time he rejected a suggestion that he should use the Government's golden share to intervene at the company's annual meeting next month.

He said that he has suggested in a letter to Sir Robert Scholey, chairman of British Steel, that he should meet the workforce representatives to explain his thinking and hear their "constructive suggestions of how they can make a vital contribution to the welfare of British Steel."

Mr Malcolm Rifkind said: "Our first priority is to obtain greater information - indeed any information about the reasoning and thinking behind their proposals."

Dr Robert Reid (Motherwell North, Lab) said that he was glad Mr Rifkind had met representatives of the workers. It was their jobs that were on the line.

"They know better than anyone in this House the problems of the steel industry. Suspicions are growing among the workers' representatives and others that the closure of the hot strip mill is the result of the monopoly position of British Steel."

Mr James Sillars (Glasgow, Govan, SNP) said that one privilege of the Government's golden share in British Steel was that a minister had the right to attend and to address shareholders at the annual meeting. He asked Mr Rifkind to exercise that right and to get, at the meeting, the information so far denied to the Government.

Mr Rifkind: However sincere his intention, that is a rather foolish suggestion. The golden share is only relevant to any

proposal for an outside interest to acquire more than 15 per cent of the shareholding of British Steel. That was made clear by the prospectus.

Mr Richard Holt (Langhams, C) reminded him that he was talking about British Steel. There would be considerable uncertainty if Mr Rifkind sought to influence British Steel in making a commercial decision simply because of the volume of voices from Scottish Labour MPs.

Mr Rifkind replied that the Government had called on British Steel to explain and defend its position on proposals for the strip mill.

Mr Donald Dewar, Opposition chief spokesman on Scottish affairs, said that it was not encouraging to hear the minister talking of hoping that he would get some information from British Steel.

"Is he getting co-operation on the arguments, facts and figures? Has Sir Robert Scholey indicated that he will discuss his case openly and frankly with the workforce and the Government? What steps will the minister take if co-operation is not forthcoming? If the information comes forward, will he look seriously at the need to test the assumptions behind the decision, perhaps with the help of independent advice?"

Mr Rifkind said that he understood Mr Dewar's need to make those remarks, but was in all practical respects the same as that of the Government. Labour had ruled out rationalization, thus saying, with all others, that the decision was for British Steel.

## Savings schemes to be updated

New ways of saving are to be introduced soon to encourage long-term savings in the wake of the Budget announcement of a 1 per cent increase in National Savings interest rates.

Mr Richard Ryder, Economic Secretary, Treasury, said in a written reply that there would be a new fixed-interest savings certificate offering a tax-free guaranteed return of 9.5 per cent a year if held for five years; a similar improvement in the yearly plan; a new index-linked savings certificate revalued monthly by reference to the retail prices index and offering tax-free guaranteed extra interest of 4.5 per cent a year if held for five years; and a new series capital bond offering a guaranteed return of 13 per cent a year, taxable, but credited without prior deduction of income tax, if held for five years.

## Visa rules changed

Citizens from Argentina and East Germany will no longer need visas to visit Britain, Mr Peter Lloyd, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said in a Commons written reply.

Necessary changes in the immigration rules were laid before Parliament yesterday and come into effect tomorrow.

## Grant for Nicaragua

Britain is to provide a grant of £500,000 for Nicaragua, Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, announced in a Commons written reply. British aid in the past has been channelled through the European Community which provided £13.8 million in 1988, of which Britain's share was £2.75 million.

## New peers introduced

Lord Cavendish of Furness, formerly Mr Richard Cavendish, chairman of Holker Estate Group, and Lord Holme of Cheltenham, formerly Mr Richard Holme and a former president of the Liberal Party, were introduced in the Lords yesterday.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Treasury; Prime Minister; Food Safety Bill, remaining stages.

Lords (3): National Health Service and Community Care Bill, report, first day.

## Ashdown's housing cash plan

By ROBIN OAKLEY  
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Liberal Democrats would phase out mortgage tax relief and institute housing allowances applying both to those buying and to those renting their homes, Mr Paddy Ashdown said yesterday. The Liberal Democrat leader said that the action would come after a merger of the tax and social security systems.

Mr Ashdown was introducing a report on homelessness, *Seen but not Heard*, produced for his party by a group of housing experts; it is to form the basis of discussions on formulating a policy for the homeless.

The report says that mortgage interest relief to home owners last year cost £6,750 million, with higher rate taxpayers receiving on average more than £2,000 towards their housing costs from public funds. It urges, in the long term, the institution of a new system of housing subsidy, called housing cost relief, which would apply both to home owners and to those who rent. Existing mortgage holders would not be affected unless they chose to opt into the new system.

The authors, Bruce Douglas-Mann, chairman of Shelter, Wendy Chaplain, a London borough housing officer, Mark Hayes, an architect, and Chris Price, a



management consultant, say that renting is at present uneconomic for landlords and for anyone who can afford to buy.

In the short term, the report says that homelessness can be countered by paying income support in advance instead of in arrears, by restoring income support for the under-25s, by providing Youth Training

Scheme travel warrants to those prepared to travel to train and by reflecting liability for mortgage interest payments in family credit. It calls for an increase in hostel accommodation.

In the medium term, the report urges preservation of the leasing system being abolished under the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989, expansion of the lodging system and the provision of a duty on neighbouring local authorities to provide for others with greater housing needs.

It says that portable discounts along the lines of the right to buy should be considered for local authority tenants who want to buy in the private sector, so leaving public housing stock available. It also calls for capital receipts from the sale of council houses to be released for the provision of new housing.

Mr Ashdown said that there were 80,000 people defined as homeless in statutory terms in London alone and the number had increased by 20,000 in a year.

It was no longer a problem confined to the inner cities; it was spreading to the country, too. He had helped to provide two much-needed hostels in his own area of Yeovil. He added: "Unless steps are taken now, we face another winter of suffering. It is the shame of our nation to see the cardboard ghettos growing in every city."

## Parliament 'must not decline into an EC parish council'

### HOUSE OF LORDS

LABOUR would not want to see Parliament become a parish council within the EC, Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, leader of the Opposition peers, said in a debate on European political and monetary union.

He told peers that he wanted the EC to be a part of it. "But I do not want this Parliament to be dismantled or converted into a parish council."

The debate, he said, was fundamentally about sovereignty and about how much more power the Government proposed to give to the Community. "We shall need to know its extent and in which authority or authorities it will be invested. Our chief concern in this is accountability."

He said that Parliament and the people wanted to know more about the Government's policy on these crucial issues.

There were differences in the Government and in the Opposition was entitled to expect policy, pursued with consistency rather than to have the Government scramble to debate events set in train by others.

The Opposition understood the Government's difficulties over joining the European Monetary System. He agreed

that joining would not cure Britain's economic problems overnight, but in the longer term it could provide her with the kind of stability and the terms of investment and steady growth that the country so badly needed.

If the road to economic union was strewn with difficulties, but the way to political union was far harder to negotiate.

Opening the debate, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, leader of the Liberal Democrat peers, said that there were some signs of improvement in the Government's European posture and that also been guilty of misjudgement on the issue. But why had the Government persistently and damagingly marched out of step with Europe?

The explanation for the remarkable consistency in attitude of governments of both parties lay more in misunderstanding than in a lack of British goodwill towards the Community, although the result had been unfortunate.

There was, for instance, an exaggerated and unnecessary fear of a "formal and flattening federalism" which would make Europe an analogue of the

United States, with Britain merely the equivalent of a Pennsylvania or Illinois within it. He did not believe that would happen.

There was the constitutional intellectual tradition to think more in general declarations of intent and direction, while the British were more inclined towards "nudging one's way forward, determining each step only after the previous one has been taken."

The test of European statesmanship, and the only way to be an effective European leader, was to be able to reconcile. Sometimes there was a logical gap between the end and the means of a ringing European declaration and it was sensible to profit from the vagueness, making oneself central in playing an important role in shaping the modality.

Lord Brabazon of Tara, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said that the Government was taking an active role in seeking to define the future development of the Community. The United Kingdom wanted a strong Community but wished to maintain its national traditions and distinctive way of life. He was not talking of cultural and social things such as cricket and pints of beer, or Shakespeare, but also political traditions and the maintenance of strong political institutions.

## 'Freedom of speech' inquiry

### UNIVERSITIES

INTERESTED parties are to be consulted by the Scottish Office about arrangements for safeguarding freedom of speech in universities and colleges in Scotland and would then consider whether any action was needed, Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State for Scotland, said during question time.

Mr Donald Dewar, Opposition chief spokesman on Scottish affairs, said that he regretted that there appeared to have been a shift in the Government's position since a Scottish Office minister had said that there was little evidence in Scotland of the problems that had led to the action taken to deal with interference with free speech on campuses in England. There had been one deplorable incident at Glasgow recently, but that had been very much a case of rent-a-crowd.

Mr Lang said that it was because the position was different that the Scottish Office had not followed English colleagues in their action.

Freedom of speech was vitally important if a university was to be the light of liberty and learning and it could not be that unless freedom of speech was upheld.

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# Nato to study Soviet call for links with Warsaw Pact

FROM ANDREW McEWE, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, IN COPENHAGEN

MR JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, confirmed yesterday that Nato is to consider Soviet proposals for links between the two military alliances.

He will brief the 15 other Nato foreign ministers today on ideas put forward by Mr Edward Shevardnadze, his Soviet counterpart, during talks in Copenhagen. Mr Baker said Mr Shevardnadze had given "more insights" into the ideas, first mooted by President Gorbachev during the Washington summit. Both men refused to disclose details until they had seen their respective allies.

Mr Baker hinted that Moscow was proposing direct confidence-building measures between the two pacts. A number of indirect measures agreed through the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe have been in force for some time.

Links between the alliances might overcome Soviet fears arising from German reunification, helping the Kremlin to drop its objections to a united Germany being part of Nato.

The West will not accept anything which could be interpreted as a merger, but might agree to limited face-saving arrangements to help Moscow come to terms with reunification and with the virtual disintegration of the Warsaw Pact. Mr Joe Clark, the Canadian Secretary for External Affairs, said there would be "extensive discussion" at Turnberry on giving Nato a more political character. He called for decisions on these lines to be taken at the Nato summit in London next month and said Mr Gorbachev and Mr Shevardnadze had made it clear they would not be satisfied with mere talk of change.

Mr Baker stretched out his hand to Moscow yesterday in a remarkably hopeful speech to the Conference on the Human Dimension, an international human rights forum. American and British delegates at previous human rights conferences have strongly criticized the Soviet Union's record, but Mr Baker is thought to welcome Mr Gorbachev's reforms. Apart from

repeating President Bush's misgivings over Soviet policy on Lithuania, Mr Baker's emphasis was on the prospects for a better future. "We are closer than ever to realizing the CSCE's long-cherished vision of a Europe whole and free," he declared.

Mr Baker and Mr Clark made proposals similar to ideas put forward by Moscow, which would transform the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe into the leading political forum on Europe's future. A final decision to upgrade the organization will almost certainly be taken at a CSCE summit later this year. There have been fears for several weeks that the meeting might be delayed because of Soviet foot-dragging in Vienna at the Conventional Forces in Europe talks, but since the Washington summit, some of the optimism has returned.

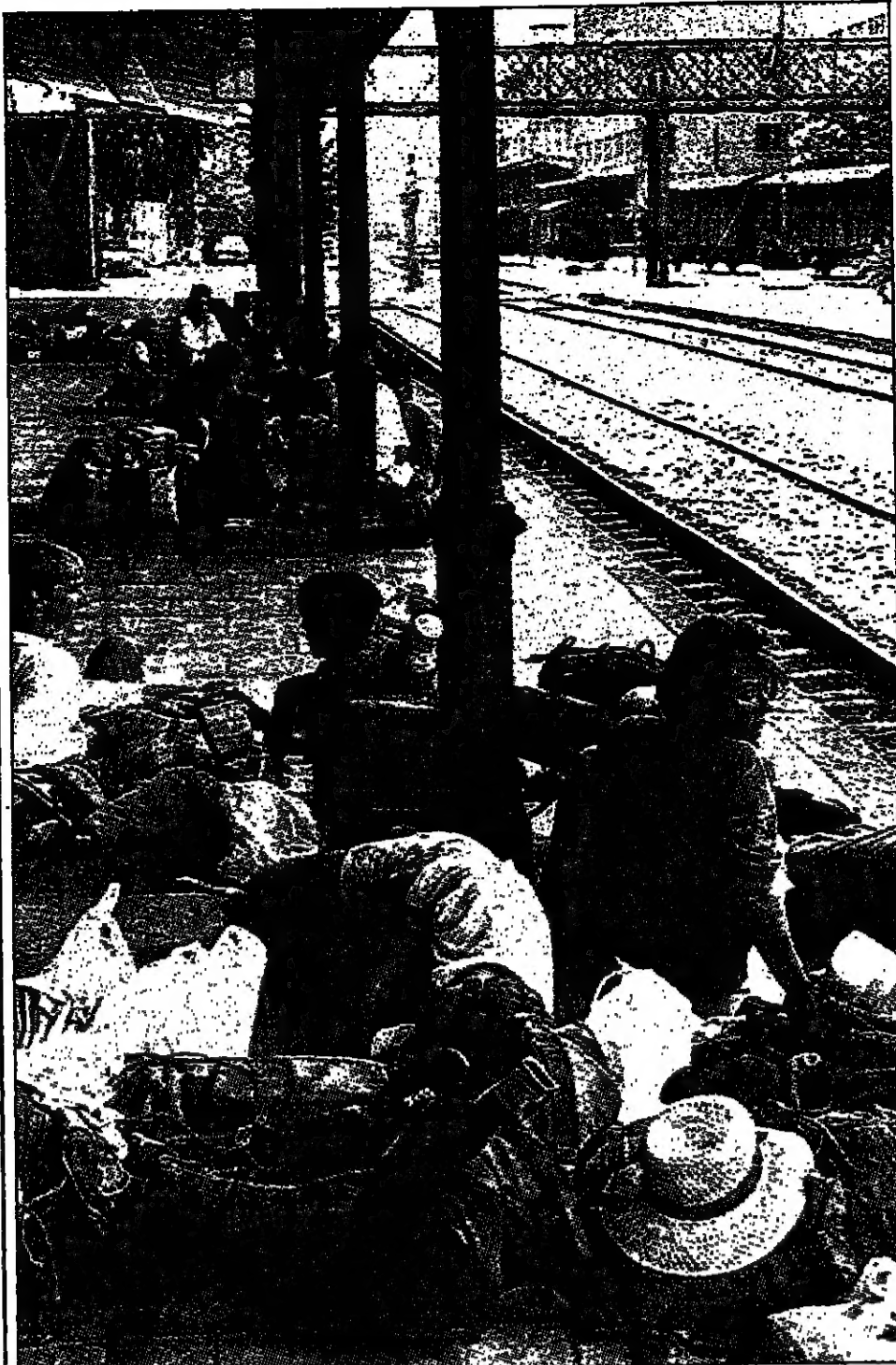
Albania, which has been admitted to the Copenhagen Conference as an observer, said yesterday that it hoped to join the CSCE by the end of the year. The organization would then include every country in Europe.

But the Albanians appear not to have realized what this will entail. Mr Petrit Bushati, the Albanian Ambassador to Sweden, said Tirana would adopt all CSCE agreements made since it was founded in 1975. But when asked if Albania would have multi-party democracy, he said there was no tradition for organized opposition.

● Rights issue: Although the human rights situation in the Soviet Union has dramatically improved, several problems still exist and Moscow still has to implement many of the stipulations of the Helsinki Accord of 1975, the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights told a press conference yesterday, on the second day of the Conference on the Human Dimension in the Danish capital (Christopher Follett writes).

"There is a major need for education on human rights in the Soviet Union, *perestroika* is still very unevenly distributed," Mr Yuri Orlov, the Soviet dissident and co-founder of the Moscow Helsinki Group in 1976, said.

Jargon of peace, page 12



Stopped in their tracks: Canadian tourists in Athens sitting out a strike by railway workers as a 24-hour general stoppage over government economic policy took hold

## Bulgarians unmoved by the 'steered revolution'

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BANSKA, BULGARIA

IF THE road is cleared of cart horses an hour in advance, if there are policemen stationed every 200 yards, and your vehicle is a Mercedes, it is possible to get from President Palace to Bankia in 20 minutes. That was how Mr Todor Zhivkov, the former Bulgarian leader, travelled to his villa in a small hillside village famed for its mineral water and high ozone levels.

Outside there are Moorish frills, inside a cinema, seven suites and an Olympic-sized swimming pool surrounded by exotic plants. There are no peacocks in the garden any

more and no uniformed policemen, but swarthy, cautious men who do not talk very much. They prowl the lawns, checking alarms.

The disgraced Mr Zhivkov is in prison hospital awaiting trial on charges of corruption. His grandson is under house arrest in another Zhivkov villa, charged with rape. His son, Vladimir, is under investigation. Everything is in political limbo.

Mr Zhivkov, aged 79, and all his belongings, are an embarrassment. It is difficult to shed the impression that a party in control of the state

machinery for 45 years does not tend naturally to self-enrichment. Mr Aleksandr Lilov, the party chairman and once Mr Zhivkov's chief ideologist, has a large Western-equipped villa.

The opposition has been trying to stir up the issue, but Mr Lilov merely says: "Why not? The ideal of socialism is not poverty. My villa has been built with money paid to me for 40 years of work - honest work - and from the fees for my publication." That, of course, misses the point as the party elite, including President Mladenov, bought their houses legally but at artificially depressed prices.

The core issue is that the present leadership of the Bulgarian Socialist Party, which stands a good chance of winning Sunday's elections, is almost identical to the hierarchy of Mr Zhivkov's Communist Party. Mr Mladenov, Mr Zhivkov's Foreign Minister for many years, now says that his former boss "was a ruthless man blind with greed for power". Yet, say opposition analysts, Mr Mladenov must have been closely involved with Mr Zhivkov's virulently anti-Turkish policy and many other blunders.

In certain circles - in the university, the film and theatre communities - it is chic to vote for the opposition and sport the blue stickers and scarves of their Union of Democratic Forces. But, at heart, there is a deep indifference to the "steered revolution", with the attempt of a weakened but still dominant Communist Party to share power and gain a new legitimacy. Some form of coalition with the Communists seems inevitable after Sunday.

## Freedom may revive glories of Carlsbad

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN MARIANSKE LAZNE

FOR Bohemian spas, particularly one as venerable as Marianske Lazne (known as Carlsbad in the days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire), this week's first free elections for 42 years hold out the promise of a new era of prosperity after decades of communist abuse and neglect.

"Whoever wins, as long as it is not the Communists, things will be better for us," the tail-coated manager of the opulent Hotel Moskva says.

The hotel, formerly the Hotel Pupp, was the setting for the handover of the Habsburg order of battle by the infamous Austrian traitor, Colonel Redl, to his Russian controller.

The Moskva, whose high-ceilinged rooms were the exclusive playground of party bosses until last December, is enjoying a new lease of life. The German frontier is barely 30 minutes' drive away.

Mr Pavel Smutny, "regulator" of the spa's chief thermal spring, the 30ft-high *sprudel*, believes the elections offer Carlsbad the chance to recover its pre-1914 status as Europe's premier spa. "Today people need spas more than ever - to banish the stress of modern life. Carlsbad will again become a point on the map," he says.

Mr Smutny, along with most of his colleagues, will be voting for the Greens. "A Green vote is a vote for nature and therefore a vote for the spas," he said as a van broadcasting Green election notices sped by.

Above the wrought-iron pergolas of the former Imperial Austrian offices' convalescent home, the forest walks that meander past derelict chapels are a melancholy comment on four decades of communist misrule.

One in every three trees is visibly dying - the heart of Czechoslovakia's heavy industry is just miles away. Lignite, burnt in quantities never experienced here before the war, is the main culprit. The combination of dying forests and boarded-up pension houses, still empty from the expulsion of the millions of Czechoslovak Germans who lived here until 1946, is intensely depressing.

At nearby Marienbad, reached through an area of 20 square miles of devastated pine forests, the effects of the pollution are even more apparent.

Mr Miroslav Kulhavy, vice-president of the Bohemian Greens, believes that those who do not vote for his party are only helping the Communists to achieve their virtual single-handed destruction of one of the most fabulously unspoiled parts of the Earth.

"Time is not on our side. Drastic action is needed now, by everyone. If we do not win enough votes, I'm afraid there is a danger that commerce will take precedent over the environment," he says.

Not boasting a casino, Marienbad is more genteel than its larger neighbour, but here, too, years of neglect weigh heavily.

Once the band under the colonnade finishes its Austrian marches at 4pm, silence reigns as scores of factory workers pace up and down, sipping a water still renowned for possessing curative properties.

By 8pm, with all lights out, the spa is a ghostly stage-set of former glories. "It is a miracle that the water has resisted the local pollution," but Marienbad is a place of miracles," Dr Ales Senevsky, who has been a resident physician for more than three decades, says.

"Here your King Edward had tea with the Austrian emperor. The entire spa was constructed for the benefit of a class the Communists did their best to destroy and yet... Marienbad still lives," he says, pointing to the abandoned English church with its monument to Edward VII barely preserved amid the shattered stained glass.

The physician will also be voting for the Greens, who are believed locally to stand a good chance of polling the five per cent needed to qualify to send MPs to the new parliament.

But Civil Forum is also running a high profile campaign in the spas, making use of the loudspeakers the Communists erected on every street during the 1970s to broadcast Stalinist readings.

A population sensing the imminent profits of a booming tourist industry are convinced that the Forum's commitment to making Czechoslovakia "again a part of Europe" is the sole guarantee of future prosperity.

"The Greens are inexperienced and split," Mrs Tamara Harvartova, a physiotherapist from nearby Frantiskovy Lazne (Franzensbad), says. "Here they are for nuclear power, but in the south they are against it. The Forum has friends in America and Moscow, that is the safest way for us here."

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## Czechs question former leaders

FROM PETER GREEN IN PRAGUE

MR MILOŠ Jakes and four other hardline former Communist leaders in Czechoslovakia were detained just days before the country holds its first free parliamentary elections in 44 years, for their part in inviting the Soviet Union and four other Warsaw Pact countries to invade Czechoslovakia and suppress the 1968 Prague Spring.

Mr Jakes and the others were questioned by justice officials and all, apart from Mr Vasil Bilak, the Communists' former chief ideologist, were later released.

Mr Andrej Samel, the Deputy Interior Minister, told Reuters news agency the five were detained at the request of Mr Tibor Boehm, the federal prosecutor.

"They are suspected of violating the law in connection with the entry of the five (Warsaw Pact) armies on August 21, 1968, and other criminal acts such as abuse of power," Mr Samel said.

"I cannot exclude that other people acting against the law and the security of this country could be detained," he added.

Mr Jakes, the Communist General Secretary, was detained after last November's "velvet revolution" was suspended along with Mr Bilak, the man suspected of inviting the Soviet Union to invade Czechoslovakia. Mr Bilak, a Slovak, was named as successor to Mr Alexander Dubcek as Slovak party chief when Mr Dubcek took over as Communist Party chief from Antonin Novotny and was named in the Prague Spring.

The other men detained were Mr Rudolf Hegensbartl, the former head of the Central Committee's "state administration department" which ran the StB, the secret police, Mr Michal Stepanek, Mr Bilak's successor as head of the party's foreign department, and Mr Josef Lennart, a former Politburo member.

Mr Hegensbartl has been suspected of being one of the organizers of a suspected *putsch* attempt last November 17 that turned instead into the revolution and threw the Communists from power.

Mr Jakes presided over the purges of the Communist Party in the years of neo-Stalinist normalization after the invasion. Mr Bilak was one of the first to be stripped of his membership by the Communist Party in the wake of the revolution and was expelled from the party in February.

The only senior party figure to be detained previously was Mr Miroslav Stepan, the Prague party boss at the time of the revolution and the man suspected of giving the order to beat students in the November 17 demonstration.

Mr Bilak was held on Tuesday in the Slovak capital Bratislava, a spokesman for the Slovak Interior Minister said. Mr Lennart, Mr Stepanek and Mr Jakes were detained in the Prague region in a co-ordinated police action, the Interior Ministry said.

The timing of their detention may also have been connected with President Havel's one-day visit to Moscow for a Warsaw Pact meeting.

Mr Dubcek, now chairman of the Federal Assembly, visited Moscow at the head of a delegation to demand documents about the invasion.

Meanwhile, Civil Forum announced that it had removed an unspecified number of people from its list of election candidates because they were suspected of having been secret police informers.

## Social charter fails its first EC hurdle

FROM MICHAEL BRYNIN IN BRUSSELS

IN A setback to proponents of the Social Charter, the European Commission yesterday was forced to postpone its first directive based on it after heated disagreement among the 17 commissioners over the legality and need for the proposed measure.

Mrs Vasso Papandreu, the Commissioner for Social Affairs, was ordered to redraft a plan to force employers to offer part-time workers the same social benefits as full-time employees and pay them the same *pro rata* rates. She was also instructed at a stormy meeting of the Commission to find better justification for her proposal to implement the measure by majority vote instead of unanimity.

The setback brings immediate comfort to Britain, which fiercely opposes the measure and claims the drastic increase in costs would destroy many of the part-time jobs created in recent years. Britain can also take comfort from the fact that it is not alone in its opposition: West Germany, Denmark, and several other countries are also aghast at Mrs Papandreu's plans.

Sir Leon Brittan, the principal opponent in the Commission of the Social Charter, and several of his colleagues argued that Brussels could not legitimately base the directive on a treaty clause dealing with the implementation of the Single Market, which allows majority voting. Instead, they said, it was clearly a measure dealing with social protection, and should therefore be approved by all member states unanimously, thus enabling opponents to veto it.

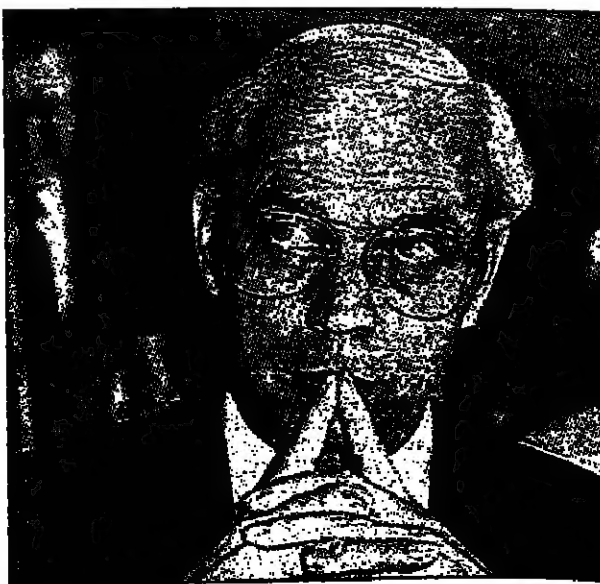
There has been no treason case of an even remotely comparable weight," Herr Rebmann said.

Conrad retired from the Army in 1985 and stayed on in the Federal Republic with his German wife. He lived in some style and continued to sell information gleaned from his contacts still in the Army. He even tried to recruit other US servicemen to work as agents, succeeding once by paying a soldier more than DM10,000.

He was eventually arrested in August, 1988, after a joint operation by West German, US and Swedish counter-espionage agents. A month earlier he had made his last paid "delivery" to his Hungarian spy master in Vienna.

The investigation showed that the eight members of the ring had specialized in gathering information from US servicemen and passing it on to the Hungarian secret service, which was acting as a surrogate for the KGB.

The case was heard in a West German civil court and not before an American military tribunal because Conrad was a civilian living in West Germany at the time of his arrest.



Clyde Lee Conrad awaiting his sentence yesterday

## Highest-paid spy jailed for life

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

A RETIRED American army sergeant, said to have been the highest paid spy caught by the West, received a life sentence yesterday from the civil court in Koblenz for "the worst case of high treason" reported to the Federal Prosecutor's Office in West Germany.

The court was told that Clyde Lee Conrad was paid at least DM2.2 million (£800,000) by the communist former Hungarian and Czechoslovak governments between 1975 and 1985 for military secrets which could have put West Germany at risk and endangered the 250,000 US troops stationed here.

A professional soldier from Bergholz, Ohio, he had joined the Army in 1965 and was transferred to the 8th Infantry Division based in Bad Kreuznach, near Mainz, in 1980, when he became the trusted document custodian in charge of a confidential archive which contained secret defence plans for West German territory.

Some of the plans he had access to had the top grading of "cosmic secret" and concerned American nuclear missile bases as well as the

comparable weight," Herr Rebmann said.

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The investigation showed that the eight members of the ring had specialized in gathering information from US servicemen and passing it on to the Hungarian secret service, which was acting as a surrogate for the KGB.

The case was heard in a West German civil court and not before an American military tribunal because Conrad was a civilian living in West Germany at the time of his arrest.

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## Policy shift in Ethiopia opens way to peace talks

FROM REUTERS IN ADDIS ABABA

THE Ethiopian Government, its Army locked in fierce fighting with Eritrean rebels, has signalled a key policy shift which could open the way to full-scale peace talks on ending Africa's longest civil war.

The Government of President Mengistu said in a statement that it would allow the United Nations to act as observer to peace negotiations with the Eritrean People's Liberation Front.

"This is an enormous breakthrough. It is extremely important in unblocking the current logjam and getting the talks going," one Western diplomat said.

After exploratory talks last year the front, which is fighting for independence for the Red Sea province of Eritrea, said it would not attend further talks on ending the 28-year war unless the United Nations agreed to send observers. The peace process, chaired by the former US President, Mr Jimmy Carter,

and co-chaired by Tanzania's former President, Mr Julius Nyerere, ground to a halt when the United Nations said it could not attend unless invited by the Ethiopian Government.

Although the Government maintained it had no objection to UN participation, it did not formally invite the world body to join the other chosen observers — the Organization of African Unity, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Sudan, Kenya and Tanzania.

But the government statement said: "The Government... has taken additional measures outside the procedures originally agreed on for the conduct of the preliminary talks to enable the UN to serve as an observer in the substantive negotiations."

The statement, which did not elaborate on the plan, was issued late on Tuesday after two days of intensive meetings among Ethiopia's military leadership, diplomats said.

They said the Government's new position, which surprised analysts in the Ethiopian capital, appeared linked to reports of a deteriorating military situation around the Eritrean capital, Asmara.

The Eritrean front has claimed major victories over government forces, who lost the key Red Sea port of Massawa in February and whose only link between Asmara and Addis Ababa is by air.

"I think this new position has come about because of the military situation as much as because of external pressure," a Western diplomat said.

The Soviet Union, for years Ethiopia's main military supplier, has reportedly been pressing President Mengistu to negotiate an end to the war with the Eritrean front and with another rebel group in the north, the Tigre People's Liberation Front.

The Eritrean front which called last month for a UN-sponsored referendum to decide the future of Eritrea, was dismissive of the Government's new stance, saying it had come too late.

"I do not think we are interested in this. We cannot play hide-and-seek with them any more," a front spokesman in London said.

"This new statement is not a change of heart. It is just more manoeuvring, delaying tactics," he said, but declined to say if the Eritreans would actually refuse to attend fresh talks.

The capture of Massawa was a big blow to President Mengistu. At a stroke, it cut off the main route for food aid for up to 4.5 million people facing starvation — half of whom are believed to be in Eritrea.

International aid agencies fear that, if the fighting around Asmara intensifies, relief efforts will be further disrupted and a catastrophic famine matching that of 1984-1985 may result.

"Whether there is a major famine depends on two factors — war and rain. If there is peace, there is no real threat," said Mr Chris Mason, of the British-based charity, Oxfam.

In Tuesday's statement, the Government also agreed to allow the use of Massawa to bring in food supplies for famine victims.

Diplomats said that it left open the possibility of the port coming under interim UN control.

## Bus attack kills 18 in Karachi

Karachi — Gunmen shot dead 18 people in Karachi yesterday shortly before the start of talks to end Mohajir-Sindhi violence which has claimed more than 170 lives in two weeks (Zahid Hussain writes).

The attack, on a bus carrying workers to a cement factory, was the worst in the Sind provincial capital for several days.

## School raided

Paris — Vandals broke into a high school in Gien, 75 miles south of Paris, and painted swastikas on the walls and left behind blood-soaked human bones. The raid was reminiscent of a wave of recent neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic vandalism across France. (AP)

## Drug testing

Sydney — Esso Australia said it will introduce random drug and alcohol tests for workers in July, prompted by the Exxon Valdez accident in Alaska and a US corporate trend. (Reuters)

## Tamil victory

Colombo — The Sri Lankan Government, granting a demand from the Tamil Tigers, said it would dissolve the provincial council in the Tamil-dominated North-East and organize fresh elections. (Reuters)

## Embassy opens

Paris — France will reopen its embassy in Afghanistan next week, more than a year after most foreign missions in Kabul were closed, because security has improved. (Reuters)

## King improves

Oslo — King Olav of Norway, at 86 the world's oldest head of state, was reported to be improving in hospital after suffering a stroke and pneumonia. (Reuters)

## Amazon crash

Sao Paulo — An aircraft with 43 passengers on board crashed in the Amazon region of Brazil, killing 16 people. (Reuters)

## Britain gets tough on African aid

By MICHAEL KNIFE AND ANDREW MCEWEN

A VEILED warning to African governments to introduce more democracy, increase public accountability and pay greater respect to market principles if they wished to receive foreign aid, was issued yesterday by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary.

With the increased competition for aid, donors were now less likely to ignore its relative effectiveness, said Mr Hurd. It had to go where it could do most good. Too many of Africa's resources had been dissipated by war, bad management and corruption, he added.



## Natal test for de Klerk reforms

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

THE South African Government faced the first electoral test of its reform policies yesterday in a parliamentary by-election regarded as a barometer of white opinion on the dismantling of apartheid.

The poll in the Natal constituency of Umlazi is the first since President de Klerk launched his reform initiatives last September and began peace talks with the African National Congress a few months later.

The conventional wisdom is that the ruling National Party will retain the seat with a reduced majority. Analysts believe the Nationalists have been losing support to the Conservatives, but gaining the confidence of the liberal Democrats, which may pre-empt a close result.

Mr Con Botha, who was recently appointed Administrator of Natal, held the Umlazi seat in last September's general election with a majority of 2,835. Despite substantial gains in other provinces, however, the Conservatives failed to win a seat in the largely English-speaking Natal.

Police said that they were searching for a murder suspect, who was not connected with the Mandela family, and that people looking after the properties co-operated "in a good spirit". The suspect was not found.

## Rebels poised to take Monrovia

By LINDA JONES

REBEL forces of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia were preparing yesterday for a final assault on Monrovia after taking control of Firestone Plantation, the world's biggest rubber plantation, and the main towns near Robertsfield, Liberia's only international airport.

US Embassy personnel confirmed that the rebels had captured the towns of Harbel and Owensgrove and would probably consolidate these gains before moving against Monrovia. The rebels are now thought to control Roberts-

field, 35 miles east of the capital. One US official said that the mood in Monrovia was apprehensive, with shops virtually empty of provisions, most schools closed, and people staying at work for only a couple of hours each day.

Members of the Krahn and Mandingo tribes, from which President Doe of Liberia draws support, fear reprisal killings if the mainly Gio and Mano rebels enter the capital. Many have escaped to the north-eastern Grand Gedeh region.

However, there are no im-

mediate plans to send in the US Marines, who are standing by in a six-ship task force off the Liberian coast, because ex-patriates are not believed to be in imminent danger, the US official said.

Meanwhile, the chief military adviser to Mr Charles Taylor, the rebels' leader, was yesterday reported missing and feared dead by rebels after a clash with government troops fleeing Monrovia. The rebels apparently fired on a lorry in which he was riding, believing it to be part of an army convoy. The Liberian

information ministry had announced on Tuesday night that Mr Johnson died during renewed fighting in Grand Gedeh county.

The rebels are under strict instructions from Mr Taylor to avoid damaging foreign property. He wants to convince Western businessmen that their interests would not be jeopardized by a National Patriotic Front government.

"I just happen to be a die-hard, cold-blooded capitalist, and I'm proud of it," he told reporters yesterday.

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# Setback for UK-Iran hopes as Rushdie threat is reaffirmed

By HAZRIR TEIMOURIAN

PRESIDENT Rafsanjani of Iran yesterday restated his wish for a resumption of diplomatic relations with Britain, but appeared to immediately quash the possibility by saying that the death sentence passed on Salman Rushdie, the novelist — the main cause of the rift between the two countries last year — would remain in force.

Addressing foreign and Iranian reporters in Tehran, after a week of mourning to mark the first anniversary of the death of Ayatollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic state who pronounced the *fatwa* on Mr Rushdie, he said that, in principle, Iran had no difficulty in restoring relations with Britain, and that both countries desired a normalization of ties.

"If Mrs Thatcher condemns Rushdie's novel," he added, "there will remain no problem on the way of a resumption of ties, but we have no right to withdraw the late imam's *fatwa*. It stays as it is."

The Foreign Office in London had no immediate comment on the statement, but President Rafsanjani's remarks are bound to strengthen the impression abroad that he remains vulnerable to pressure from Islamic extremists on the fringes of his Government. These include Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the nominal leader of the state, who called on Britain on Tuesday to hand Mr Rushdie over to British Muslims "so that the verdict of God might be carried out on him".

An observer of Iranian poli-

tics said yesterday: "Rafsanjani has struck upon the strategy that the Rushdie affair is a religious quarrel between all the world's Muslims, on the one hand, and an offending individual on the other. This assumes that Khomeini's order to kill a British subject on British soil does not amount to international terrorism, which it clearly does, and when Britain protects its subject from potential assassins, Iran interprets it as an act of enmity towards Islam as a religion."

The observer said that even a formal announcement by the Iranian Government that it was no longer pursuing the death of Mr Rushdie would not necessarily remove the threat to the author's life.

"A number of quasi-governmental organizations, such as the Foundation for the Deprived in Tehran, have announced rewards amounting to several million pounds for a successful assassination of Rushdie," the observer said. "These would have to be lifted, too. But the organizations are in the control of Rafsanjani's critics."

The news conference in Tehran was manipulated by Mr Rafsanjani's aides, who tried to spare him questions about Mr Rushdie and the Western hostages in Lebanon.

But when pressed on the issue of the captives, he blamed the United States for failing to press for the release of Muslims held by Israel and Iranians seized by Lebanese Christians.

"The way is now open for

the United States to act, if they want to solve the hostage problem," the Iranian leader said. "We expected a favourable reply. I can say we did not get one."

He devoted the bulk of the session to his readiness to meet President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to conclude a peace agreement between the two countries.

"We have not given a negative reply to Iraq's proposal calling for a meeting of the two heads of state," President Rafsanjani said.

"But issues must be sorted out in preliminary negotiations at expert level and in consultations with the United Nations Secretary-General to guarantee the success of such a meeting, if there is going to be one."

But he added that the declaration of the recent Arab summit in Baghdad that Iraq had full sovereignty over the Shatt al Arab waterway at the head of the Gulf had "shaken Iran's confidence" in the Iraqi leader's intentions.

Sovereignty of the waterway remains the main stumbling block to talks which have been stalled since 1988. A 15-year-old international treaty gives the countries joint sovereignty over the waterway.

President Rafsanjani said he had turned down an offer by Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, to mediate between Iran and Iraq. Mr Arafat's letter had come with one from President Saddam, and emphasized the issues raised by Iraq, he said.



Children playing in Tehran again yesterday after the end of a mourning period marking the first anniversary of Ayatollah Khomeini's death

## Students set free in China

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN BEIJING

CHINESE authorities yesterday released 97 people imprisoned for their involvement in last year's student-led demonstrations, including two students originally on the list of 21 most wanted dissidents. These are the first publicized releases of anyone on that list.

The official Xinmin news agency referred to all 97 as "lawbreakers", and said they had "pleaded guilty and voluntarily confessed their wrongdoings and expressed a willingness to repent". The agency described their release as an act of government leniency. It did not explain why they had been held for 11 months without trial.

Some of those released had voluntarily surrendered to the authorities, the agency said. One of the most wanted list is Xiong Wei, aged 25, an electronics student from Qinghua University, who was persuaded by his mother to surrender. Xiong Fengso, aged 24, a physics student also from Qinghua University, had been informed on by his sister.

Since last June the Government has encouraged people to inform on family members. But ordinary Chinese say the number of such informants has dropped because of widespread sympathy for pro-democracy demonstrators. Reflecting this, only a third of the 21 on the original most wanted list were ever arrested by police.

About 784 people were freed in January and May, suggesting that police investigations are now nearing an end, and that those who are being blamed for the "counter-revolutionary rebellion" will soon go on trial.

Meanwhile, three dissidents who disappeared last Thursday, just before they were due to give a press conference calling for the release of all political prisoners, have still not reappeared.

● HONG KONG: Chinese officials complained to the British Government after a shot was fired into the window of a building belonging to the New China News Agency (Jonathan Brande writes). The agency houses Peking's de facto consulate in Hong Kong.

## Stopgap Kaifu rides wave of popularity

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

MR TOSHIKI Kaifu, who had greatness thrust on him last autumn when he was given the job of Japanese Prime Minister, for want of anyone more suitable, has become something of a political rags-to-riches story. An opinion poll by the Kyodo news agency shows him to be the most popular leader since it began such surveys in 1964.

Some analysts suggest that Mr Kaifu, forced by his weak domestic power base to look for friends abroad, is reaping the rewards of having injected a more international flavour into Japan's staid politics. Mr Kaifu, barely seems to have enough time to unpack his suitcases before heading off somewhere else. He has toured Europe and Asia and made the obligatory (for Japanese Prime Ministers) pilgrimage to the United States.

His approach happened to coincide with a new wave of thinking among Foreign Ministry bureaucrats, who decided the time had come for Japan to play a bigger role on the world stage. Japan's move to host Cambodian peace talks in Tokyo this week — its debut as an international peace-broker — signalled its desire to have a say in developments in Asia.

The negotiations, boycotted by the Khmer Rouge, brought a joint call for a ceasefire from Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the resistance leader, and Mr Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Vietnamese-backed Government in Phnom Penh.

Mr Kaifu's decision to tour Eastern Europe soon after taking office was meant to show that Japan is no longer happy just to write the cheques, but wants a say in how the world evolves after the Cold War.

His biggest success has been in improving relations with Washington, which were fraying over trade. US demands for easier access for its exporters diverted attention away from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's domestic problems and gave Mr Kaifu a chance to prove himself with the electorate. Many voters found they agreed with the American call to encourage more cheap US imports.

Sweet words from President Bush about what a good job Mr Kaifu's bold leadership was doing to strengthen Japan-America ties swelled the Prime Minister's popularity.

Mr Kaifu appears to be scandal-free — a rarity in Japanese politics — and he is

an energetic drum beater. He speaks well — a relief after Mr Noboru Takeshita, whose vague delivery is said to have baffled even close advisers.

Another reason for Mr Kaifu's popularity was revealed in yesterday's Kyodo poll. Although 63 per cent of respondents said they approved of his performance, 31.9 per cent said they did so only because "there is no one else". Most of the LDP's leaders are still recovering from their involvement in the Recruit bribery scandal.

The poll's results are awkward for the party elders, who had not expected Mr Kaifu to last so long. He is even more popular than Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, who was probably Japan's best-known Prime Minister abroad until Mr Takeshita and Mr Sosuke Uno, who was involved in a ginseng scandal, managed to make their names familiar to the world last year.

While the LDP's elders will let Mr Kaifu rule for the time being, they are fighting over his successor already. They also know that, however popular he may be abroad and whatever voters tell pollsters, the public has little say in picking Prime Ministers.

## Refugees make for Australia

From ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA is preparing for a new wave of Asian boat people for the first time in 10 years — Cambodian refugees who are risking longer and more hazardous sea voyages to escape renewed fighting in their country.

Officials said yesterday they believed Australia was now the most attractive destination for Cambodian refugees who wanted to avoid detention in Indonesia's chronically over-crowded camps. As the annual "sailing season" for the boat people gets under way, the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra said that three boatloads of Cambodians have already made journeys of some 2,000 miles to get here.

A ministry spokesman denied reports that Indonesia was turning back refugee boats and forcing them to continue on to Australia after Mr Neal Blewett, Australia's acting Foreign Minister, had an emergency meeting with the Indonesian Foreign Minister in Jakarta. Mr Blewett said yesterday: "Both Indonesia and Australia have a common interest in reducing incentives for boat people to leave Cambodia. The best way of doing that is achieving a peace settlement in Cambodia."

On Indonesia's Galang island, just south of Singapore, facilities are at breaking point, with about 1,500 Cambodians having joined 13,000 Vietnamese refugees.

Australian immigration officials suspect dealers are selling passages to Australia for up to \$300,000 (£900). Cambodian boat people are held in a camp 25 miles south of Darwin in the Northern Territory. There they live in army camps surrounded by barbed wire while the Government considers whether or not to accept them.

The Darwin camp has reached its capacity. An immigration official said: "It is an emergency camp. We'll be moving them."

Meanwhile, Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, yesterday announced provisions for Chinese students to stay on in Australia after the crackdown on pro-democracy supporters in China.



The go-between: Mr Kaifu, right, greeting Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the Cambodian resistance, in Tokyo yesterday after hosting talks with Phnom Penh

TOKYO NOTEBOOK by Joe Joseph

## Fate of British beef feeds Japanese pride

In Japan, where cattle are fed on oats and beer and are massaged by their owners, there has been a bout of "I told you so" sneering at the fate of the British and their mad cows. Japanese television crews have descended on "the beef-loving British" and those of us who thought we had as much chance of seeing Mr Gummer on our Tokyo TV screens as hearing Dan Maskell commenting on the sumo have suddenly become acquainted with our Agriculture Minister and his daughter.

The Japanese seem to pity the poor British, who have to eat unpampered cows, and feel this confirms the superiority of Japanese beef and the silliness of US pressure for Japan to buy meat from abroad. The Japanese have long argued that their uniqueness prevented them from importing everything from beef (not digestible for Japanese intestines) to French skis (do not grip on Japan's unique snow).

Now that they have been forced by Washington's trade bullies to allow American beef into Japanese kitchens, Japanese meat companies have begun buying up cattle ranches in the US and Australia to ensure that Japan imports beef raised the Japanese way and, of course, that

Japanese companies keep their profits.

But massaging and cossetting do not come cheap. The most prized Japanese beef, from Matsuzaka, is finely marbled with fat, like a very small-scale but detailed road map, and sells for 7,000 yen per 100 grams, or £120 a pound. Cheapgrams, or £120 a pound. Cheapgrams, or £120 a pound. Cheapgrams, or £120 a pound.

Japanese have always taken their food seriously: a feast for the eyes as well as for the palate, they like to say, although a few strips of raw tuna lounging on a twig of cherry blossom does not always adequately feast Western stomachs. Now, splashing out at Western restaurants is the latest fad for rich Japanese who have run out of wrist space for Rolex. The extravagant ones go on pricey gourmet tours of Europe, but they are beginning to bristle at the two-faced welcome they have been receiving.

Let the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, Japan's financial daily, explain: "Often appearing in brochures touting gourmet tours are the words 'A gorgeous separate dining room has been specially prepared for our Japanese guests'. But all is not as it seems on the surface. Some travel

industry people say that, recently, Japanese gourmets have started showing up at first-class European hotels and restaurants.

"Their atrocious table manners have prompted these establishments to set up separate dining rooms for Japanese patrons. They clap when the food is served. They snap pictures like cameras were going out of fashion. Generally, they make it difficult for other guests to enjoy their meals — thus the separate rooms."

Back in Tokyo, bar owners and restaurateurs are always looking for new ways to satisfy the Japanese appetite for novelty. Mock Venetian palazzi go up overnight at one Tokyo bar you can ski, indoors, between drinks. Perhaps the most arresting of the latest crop is a bar which has picked the Olympic Games as its theme. The year it has chosen is 1936, presumably because Berlin is hip with young Japanese at the moment. But there is something eerie about sipping cold lager in central Tokyo amid the Nazi German décor of Hitler's Games. Because this Olympic bar serves Santory beer, you can be sure that few of its patrons will come from, say, Mitsubishi, the

giant trading firm, or Sumitomo Bank. Mitsubishi employees drink Kirin beer and Sumitomo salarymen gulp Asahi. The reason? Japanese workers have intense loyalty to firms affiliated with their own. These webs of affiliated companies, known as *keiretsu*, drive foreign traders up the wall because Japanese companies prefer to do business within the web, even if the prices are higher. This loyalty is so powerful that one Japanese hotelier boasts: "You cannot call yourself a real hotel man unless you can tell what a guest's favourite brand of beer is simply from the company he works for."

Japan may have lessons for Britain's hard-hat steelmakers as well as for its cattle ranchers. Before British Steel puts Ravenscraig in mothballs, it should look at how Japanese steelmakers have put redundant workers to use by diversifying out of steel. NKK, Japan's second biggest steelmaker, for example, has put ex-steelmen to work on a pig farm. They sell bacon and sausages from the farm to stores and to a restaurant they have opened. If nothing else, Ravenscraig's best should be able to weld the crusts on to British Rail meat pies.

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# Making good the Lords

John Grigg

The Lords' rejection of the War Crimes Bill has re-awakened debate on the future of the second chamber, already a general election issue, as the Labour Party is at least theoretically committed to replacing it with an elected body. Drastic reform is certainly overdue, but would an all-elected chamber be best? If the mode of election were still first-past-the-post, the new body would reinforce the faults of the present system. If it were elected on a more truly representative basis, its moral authority would be greater than that of the House of Commons, which could hardly be expected to vote for the creation of such a rival.

Besides, there are great advantages in being able to bring into Parliament some people who would never offer themselves as political candidates. Governments have benefited from the occasional recruit from outside politics (eg Lord Woolton), and the value of such recruits to Parliament as a whole is obvious. Few would deny that the chief merit of the existing House of Lords is the presence in it of eminent figures from almost every department of national life.

The House currently has two crippling flaws. The first, long recognized, is its basically hereditary character. As Nancy Astor pertinently asked, who would think of having hereditary cricket teams? All the arguments put forward in support of the automatic right of hereditary peers to sit in Parliament are demonstrably false or at best specious. It is said that hereditary peers are more independent than those who are nominated. But independence is a quality of mind and character that a privileged background does not, by itself, confer. There have ever been servile party hacks among the hereditary peers. Another argument is that the hereditary peerage is more representative, since it is a random group, rather like a jury. But juries are far more broadly based, socially and economically, than the hereditary peerage.

It is further argued that for politics, as for horse-racing, breeding counts, and that there are political families, as there are musical, medical and sporting families. But the British second chamber is just about the only sphere in which hereditary talent does not have to prove itself in action. A racehorse, however good its breeding, has to race. Finally, there is the contention that only by the hereditary process can youth be brought into the second chamber. This is a fallacy; younger members could be introduced by a much better method. The age-balance certainly needs to be rectified, since the next most serious flaw in the existing House of Lords is its markedly ancient character. This has been made far worse by the Life Peerages Act of 1958, for most life peers are appointed in the late afternoon or early evening of their lives.

So what would be a sensible way of reforming the second chamber? For a start, hereditary membership should be abolished in principle, though it might be thought right for a limited number to be elected to sit by their colleagues, as used to be the practice with the Scottish peers before they were all admitted in 1963. The bulk of British peers would thus be deprived of their seats in Parliament, while becoming free, like Irish peers, to vote in parliamentary elections and to stand for the House of Commons.

Life peerages also should be abolished in principle, though exceptions might be made in a few outstanding cases. As a general rule it must be unwise to make appointments for life. I would not, however, suggest the substitution of an arbitrary retiring age. Appointment of most peers should be for a set term: say, 10 years. One advantage among many of this reform would be to facilitate the appointment of younger people. At present there is an understandable reluctance to confer life-membership upon even the most gifted men or women in their thirties or early forties.

The *ex-officio* category of peers deserves to be much enlarged. At present this consists of only the 26 senior bishops of the Church of England. Why not admit the leaders of other religious denominations? Though Lord Jakobovits is a life peer in his own right, it would be better for there to be *ex-officio* membership of the second chamber for the Chief Rabbi, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and other significant religious figures, Christian and non-Christian, including a representative of the Islamic community.

For lay office-holders there is of course even more abundant scope. The governor of the Bank of England, the general secretary of the TUC, the president of the Royal Society and the chairman of the National Trust are just a few who come to mind. The beauty of *ex-officio* membership is that it can bring people into Parliament while they are doing jobs of national importance, but ensures that they do not clutter the place after vacating their jobs.

Members of a reformed House of Lords would not need to be lords in the titular sense, though some would be coincidentally. It is essential to distinguish between people enabled for conspicuous public service, and those merely appointed to serve in the second chamber. Moreover, the question of hereditary titles should be treated quite separately from that of hereditary membership of Parliament, which is of far greater consequence.

Yet even the best possible second chamber, with all the prestige that would belong to it, should not press for increased powers. If the House of Commons were to remain the one all-elected chamber, as I believe it should, democracy would require that it should always have the last word.

...and moreover

## CLEMENT FREUD

I remember an old cartoon in which the Thurber woman looks up at her man and says: "Ah yes, but you're you and I'm only me"; there is a lot of that going on in the world.

A Westminster Council Cleansing Department officer buzzed my buzzer one weekend to tell me that my black rubbish bag had no right to be on the pavement until Monday am, and if I did not mend my ways there would be a statutory fine. Some weeks later, when I put out the bag at dawn on the designated day, it remained *in situ* for 48 hours; there was no door on which I could beat a tattoo to get my own back.

Restaurants, when you book a table, now ask you for your name and address and telephone number — and the great and angry Nico Ladenis is reputed to demand the details of your credit card also — so the proper vengeance can be taken on those who fail to honour their commitments.

flight number, because the car hire people needed it. David said he would get on to Avro Tours, the operating charters and ring me back. Avro Tours, member of the Association of British Travel Agents and holder of an Air Travel Organizer's Licence, having advertised the flight and taken my money, found — possibly due to the 3.30am departure — that there was not much call for the excursion and cancelled it. David thought that because few people had booked, they had not bothered to announce the cancellation or tell the travel agents that they were in what is called "a non-flight situation". They have known about this for three weeks, said David, replete with umbrage.

I asked whether ABTA and other important associations who had accorded them the dignity of membership would pay compensation. "No," said David, but having acquainted Avro of my displeasure, they would exceptionally and without accepting liability be prepared to refund my money or find me another flight. Trouble is, there is no other flight on that Sunday evening; there is a British Airways scheduled flight the following morning, but the cost is more than they are prepared to pay... so it's me off to Stansted for an 11.45am departure on Monday, which means that the first day of my holiday will be spent travelling. David said that if I'd not been me — with a title and a column in a newspaper — I might not have found out until I'd got to Gatwick.

"Will ABTA and ATOL expel them?" I asked. "Heavens, no," said David: "you have to be real villains to get expelled." Avro operates from Haydon Road, London SW19, which makes me realize that I should have written nice things about Citia, who flew me to Naples with style and efficiency and astonishingly acceptable in-flight apple pie and cream last week. Should you go to Italy because you feel you have to watch the World Cup, look no further. If you fly elsewhere, beware.

Michael Evans on the words that must change as alliance leaders meet in Scotland today

# Nato gropes for a jargon of peace

It is difficult for a successful alliance to drop or temper the familiar terminology associated with 40 years of the cold war. Why, the argument goes, give up well proven principles and military or political strategies — and the language that goes with them — when they have helped to keep the peace in Europe? But the reunification of Germany and the external security issues it raises for the Soviet Union and the Nato alliance demand a total change of perspective and of language.

If Nato and the Warsaw Pact issue a special statement on Germany's future security role, as President Gorbachev proposed at the Washington summit, the choice of language will be a test case for East and West. Words will have to be found to satisfy all the groups with vested interests: the German people, Nato, Moscow, the Soviet military, Germany's East European neighbours. They will also have to satisfy Mr Gorbachev himself, for the German question is a key part of his personal struggle to survive as Soviet leader.

Nato foreign ministers meeting in Scotland today will have to

address this conundrum, and contemplate the ways in which the alliance can change its structure and organization so as to emerge more political and less military.

Cold war language should have no part to play in the debate. Yet Nato is still armed with the catchphrases that have served so well in the past: forward defence, flexible response, an appropriate mix of conventional and nuclear forces, and so on. In the short term (five years), there is no other logical strategy, for the Soviet Union remains a military superpower and Mr Gorbachev's moves to democracy are not irreversible.

But the reunification of Germany, which will go ahead whatever fate befalls Mr Gorbachev, requires a comprehensive rethink of Nato's strategy for central Europe. And there may be a need to sacrifice such sacred cows as "flexible response" and "forward defence". This is partly because the East Germans will be unwilling to join an alliance that still smells of cold war militarism, but principally because if there is to be a new European security framework that is acceptable to everyone, existing operational concepts

will have to be modified, transformed, or scrapped.

There is already evidence of fresh thinking in Nato. The communiqué issued by its Defence Planning Committee in Brussels two weeks ago predicted fundamental changes in the alliance's defence posture "in the longer term". The Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, acknowledged the West's changing attitude in an interview with *Investia* six days later.

The principles of Nato's strategy review will be outlined at the London summit next month, and should help to convince the Soviet leadership that, in the words of the Defence Planning Committee communiqué, the Western alliance wants "a co-operative, non-confrontational, approach to the challenges that lie ahead".

Yet the prospect of a united Germany being a member of Nato is still viewed by Moscow as a threat to the security of the Soviet Union. Moscow's sensitivities can be respected by synchronizing future developments. An expanded arms control programme, the transformation of Nato and the Warsaw Pact into co-operating

political and security alliances, and greater institutionalized involvement of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) all have to coincide.

The basic elements of a deal on Germany's security status were offered to the Soviet Union by President Bush at last week's summit. They include a pledge to keep Nato troops out of East Germany and to allow Soviet forces to stay put for a transitional period of up to five years. But to demonstrate that the West is prepared to take much bolder steps now that there is no longer a military threat from the Warsaw Pact, the alliance should be able to commit itself further, although only on certain conditions, which need to be spelled out.

To the Bush package could be added a commitment to reduce the German Bundeswehr — by up to 20 per cent if Bonn agrees — and all other Nato forces in central Europe (including those of the United States) by 40-50 per cent. This could be synchronized with the withdrawal of the 380,000 Soviet troops from East Germany. A proportion, perhaps a third, of

the troops involved in the withdrawals by both sides should be demobilized.

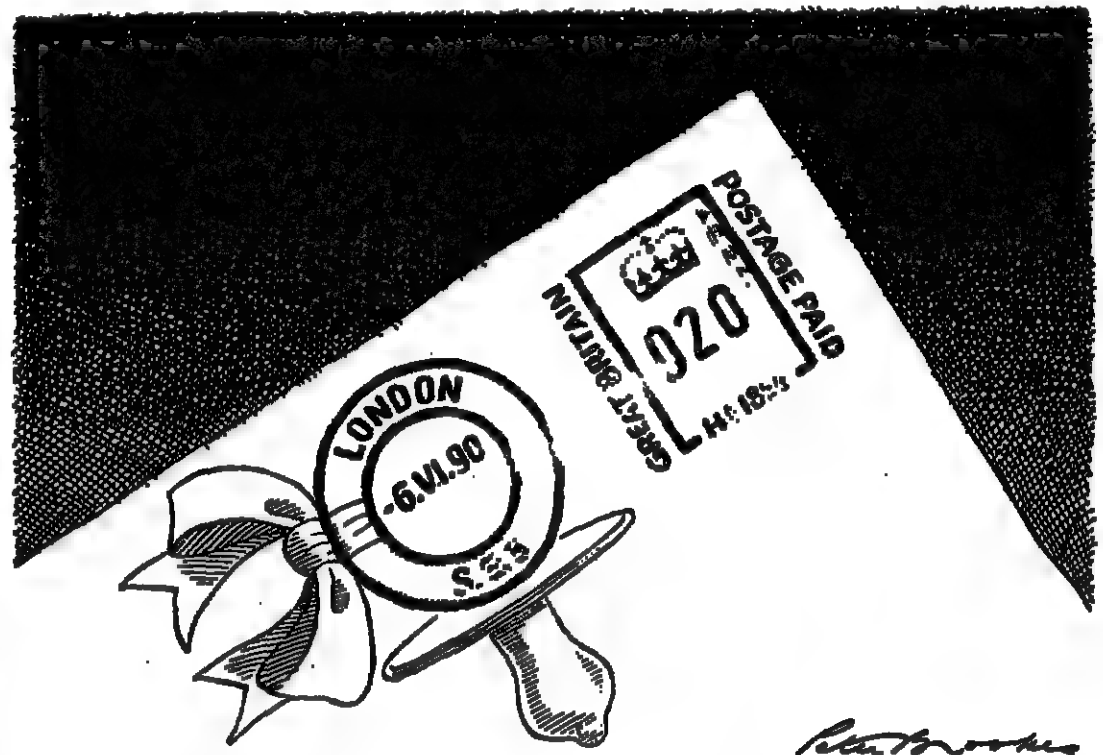
In the same five-year period, negotiations on short-range, land-based nuclear missiles in Europe should reduce tactical missiles and nuclear artillery shells to a minimum (200-300 warheads) on each side, with a view to elimination in 10 years (the so-called third zero).

Limiting the numbers of air-launched and sea-launched theatre nuclear missiles may also be on the agenda in the next five years, but Nato's planned replacement of old free-fall nuclear bombs with stand-off, medium-range missiles has to go ahead, and Moscow should be told that a "fourth zero" — elimination of air and sea-based missiles in Europe — cannot be contemplated while the Soviet Union remains such a significant military power.

These proposals can safely be offered, provided all Soviet troops leave Eastern Europe, that a treaty on conventional forces in Europe is signed and fully implemented, that the Soviet Union's democratic reforms are rigorously pursued, and that East-West relations continue to improve.

# What on earth is Nanny doing in the letter-box?

Bernard Levin asks if there are to be no limits to the interfering ministrations of the Office of Fair Trading



members or subscribers, and throw away the kind of matter the recipient does not want.

For this must industry bleed, and the Post Office put its prices up. Or was I not justified in calling him a Nanny? For he was not advising caution in investment, or emphasizing the importance of thrift, or urging comparative shopping for consumer durables; he knows that most people own a wastepaper-basket, but he is so concerned to ensure that his charges shall never grow up that he will not, if he can help it, let them throw away their own rubbish. If the provision of rubbish is not stopped at source, so that it never gets into the hands of the nation, the nation, it seems, will collapse.

When you think about it, the question of who throws the rubbish away becomes curiously crucial. It is not just a symbol of Nannyism versus adult responsibility, but a most significant fork in the road: one path leads to the

real world, the other to a swamp of helplessness. It seems that the MPS "has only 311,000 names of people who have expressed a desire not to receive junk mail". You and I will conclude that there are therefore only 311,000 households, or individuals, who can be bothered to register with the MPS. But that will not do for Sir Gordon; no, "I believe that this low level of usage by the public is more likely to reflect a lack of knowledge of its existence than any lack of discontent with direct mail".

Very well; let us accept Sir Gordon's explanation. If he is right, many more people would sign up with the MPS if only they knew about it. The burden of my argument then shifts: what is the matter with those people that they are unable to throw away mail they do not want, but must needs hide someone else to do it?

Many years ago, I was appearing on *Any Questions*, and the World Cup series was about to begin. One of the questions went something

like this: "What can we do when we find that television and radio are putting out the World Cup whenever we switch on?" I was sent in to bat first; I drew a deep breath — I wanted a good deal of emphasis for what I was proposing to say — and started: "Switch the thing off," I said "and do something else. Go for a walk; knit; read a book; take up carpentry; talk to your companions; if all else fails, make love."

There were a few gasps, a modicum of applause, a little laughter and — quite clearly — a large number of people to whom my solution of their problem had never so much as occurred. I cannot see any difference in practice between the people who do not know what the switch on the television set is for, and those who want somebody to throw their junk mail away. In either case, it is not that matter for alarm? Or at any rate, shouldn't it be?

A terrible thought comes into my mind, and will not go away,

even though I throw stones at it. Am I entirely wasting my time? Do the British want to be named? When they see a heap of letters on the mat, would they be happier if there were a Junk Mail Warden on every corner, so that all they would have to do is put their heads out of the door and call him? Though even that will not quite do; much junk mail is well disguised, and some quite genuine letters look suspiciously junkworthy. We must then appoint Junk Mail Scrutinizers; these, when the Junk Mail Warden confesses himself baffled, will be empowered to open the dubious envelopes and read the contents, before either throwing them away as guilty, or handing them over as innocent.

Then, however, there must be Junk Mail Superintendents; these would, when the Junk Mail Scrutinizer pressed his Emergency Call Button, come running. You see, some weak-willed citizens, having asked, in the appropriate ceremony, for the Junk Mail Court to have their Junk Mail filtered, may see on the mat a document that, although undoubtedly Junk Mail, looks interesting; it would be the Junk Mail Superintendent's task to confiscate the item before the customer had a chance to read it.

The Junk Mail President — but you get the idea. None the less, I still want an answer to my question. Why, if people do not want the offers, promises, goods and enticements of junk mail, can they not simply throw such material into the dustbin, and shut up about it? Which brings me back to Sir Gordon Borrie, where I started. In the speech I referred to, he said, among other things, that "both targeting and content have to be above reproach to encourage public confidence".

No they don't; not, at least, in the case of households equipped with something to throw the rubbish in. What about building a wastepaper-basket so gigantic that it would easily swallow the entire Office of Fair Trading? To be on the safe side, we had better also build a rubbish incinerator, through which the building and everything in it would go before disposal. Provided, of course, that the Junk Mailmaster-General had given his permission.

## Chamber of horrors

Strained relations between the Lords and the Commons will not be helped by a scathing assessment of the contribution of backbenchers to society, made by the Labour peer Lord "Ted" Willis. "A great many have digested the bitter truth that being an MP is only marginally better than being a dog warden, and they have had the good sense to find themselves something useful and remunerative to do outside the House," he says in *House Magazine*, the weekly journal of Parliament. "MPs protect their sanity, if not their lives, by travelling the world on what are laughingly called fact-finding tours. The rest drag themselves to Westminster, using it either as a club or a rest home. They satisfy their consciences by drafting private members' bills which propose such vital measures as a ban on ring-top drink cans, or preparing speeches that will never be delivered."

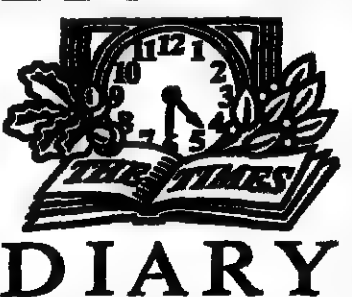
Willis, a playwright and television scriptwriter, has even less respect for the 100 or so MPs who make up the government. "It is one of the sadder features of life at Westminster that when MPs are appointed to government they take it literally. They are at once overcome with an irresistible urge actually to govern; in plain words, to meddle with matters about which they know little or nothing. Possession of a red box seems to turn them into legislative Rottweilers." Willis, best known as the creator of *Dixon of Dock Green*, says that talk about reforming or

abolishing the Lords is a decoy designed by MPs to divert attention away from the shortcomings of the Commons.

● The British Airways flight desk imparts the information that the London-Edinburgh shuttle leaves Heathrow at 16.00. And when does it touch down in Edinburgh? "17.15, local time." Isn't this taking devotion a little too far?

## Nature's gentleman

Not often can the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Lord Chancellor and the Prime Minister have all had to sit still on a busy weekday and be lectured on the delights of sea trout fishing. Yet they had to yesterday at Lord Bruce-Gardyne's packed memorial service in St. Margaret's, Westminster. Fishing and politics were among Jock Bruce-Gardyne's great loves, and another political fisherman, Mr Nicholas Ridley, read from the words of yet another, Lord Grey of Fallodon: "Sea trout fishing offers more scope for the individuality of the angler. The season, after a long period of work in the stale air of cities, coincides with the first burst into freedom and fresh atmosphere." Wandering alone down glens and over moors, read Ridley, "the angler has a sense of physical energy and strength beyond all his experience in ordinary life... There are times when I have stood still for joy of it all." For a man who gloried in the beauty of nature as much as in the arguments of politics, there could have been no better epitaph.



● Paddy Ashdown was complaining yesterday that the most uncomfortable part of sleeping with the down-and-out of Cardiff City was the loud snoring of his neighbour for the night. Labour MP Frank Cook, Ashdown is also miffed that Cook had a box big enough for two, while he and his wife Jane had to make do with singles.

## Question of taste

The Royal Academy has been asked to consider the question of taste for its Summer Exhibition, just opened. Everyone wants to be



associated with this costly tradition, despite the disturbing presence of "A Mighty Blow for Freedom / The Media", a bronze man swinging an axe at a television set, which blocks the entrance to gallery one. The German Expressionist Egon Schiele, whose works are scheduled for show from November 25, has failed to gain such acceptance. His explicit paintings of genitalia, with titles such as "Black Haired Girl with Skirt Turned Up" and "Cardinal and Nun Cares", are enjoying a boom in auction houses, but have so far been rebuffed by the sponsors. "Companies were turned off when they saw the work, and were frightened of putting clients off their canapés," says a mole.

## Birthday party

Has Harold Pinter, who publishes his first novel, *The Dancer*, on October 1, mistimed his rum? Speculation is mounting as to whether the publication date nine days before his sixtieth birthday disqualifies him for the new Sagittarius Prize for authors who publish a first novel when aged 60 or over. The book is a revised version of one he wrote in the 1950s, and this too might lead to misgivings about its eligibility. The award, developing the idea of the McKitterick prize for first novels by authors over 40, was donated by an anonymous philanthropist Englishman living in Spain, and is worth £2,000. Mark Le Fanu, general secretary of the Society of Authors, is reassuring about Pinter's chances: "As long as he is 60 by 31 December, and the book is published in 1990, it qualifies."

## Blackboard hero

Nelson Mandela is about to find his way on to the British school curriculum, as someone who has "helped the world". He will take his place alongside Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Bob Geldof and Marie Curie in a series of textbooks published by Edey. The book seems certain to sell well to those local authorities that delight in naming streets after Mandela, but will enjoy less popularity among Tory authorities. Tory MP John Carlisle says: "Such books are very dangerous. It will make Mandela a cult figure. It ignores his past when he was engaged in terrorist activities." Carlisle points out that the ANC has not renounced the use of violence, and will ask John MacGregor, the Education Secretary, to prevent use of the book in British schools.

The author, Benjamin Pogrund, is a former deputy editor of the *Johannesburg Rand Daily Mail* and a personal friend of Mandela. He has just completed a biography of the late Robert Sobukwe, leader of the Pan-Africanist Congress — the all-black rival to the ANC — which throws light on Mandela's prison years. "In the 1960s he sat next to each other sewing mailbags," says Pogrund. Another remark, told him of a heated argument between the two men over the greatest writer in English literature. One favoured George Bernard Shaw, the other Shakespeare. Unfortunately, the prisoner could not remember who supported whom — though they agreed that the dispute was even more intractable than the problems besetting South Africa.



## THE FUTURE OF TRIDENT

## THE FUTURE OF TRIDENT

## MR ATKINS' TRIAL BALLOON

## NOT JUST ABOUT MAPS

## Back pain practice

## Museum's future

## Countryside access

## Credibility gap

**search requires long-term public**

matched by these means, rather than by relying on a network of

## Naming the train

plan", but the development of a collegiate strategy, in which scien-

## Glyndebourne 'Flute'

## Where charity begins

**KEN BROAD,**  
Manor Court,  
Church Aston,  
Newport, Shropshire.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning, to mark the departure of the Queen Mother and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, who are leaving for their residence at Windsor.

The Ladies of Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.  
By command of The Queen, the Viscountess Ullswater (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning, to mark the departure of the Queen Mother and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, who are leaving for their residence at Windsor.

The Duke and Duchess of York arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this evening from the United States of America. Captain Neil Blair, RN, was in attendance.  
The Princess Royal arrived at Royal Air Force Lyneham this morning from the United States of America.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
June 6: The Prince of Wales, President, attended the General Council Meeting of the King Edward's Hospital Fund for London (The King's Fund) at 21 Palace Court, W2.

Major General Sir Christopher Alry was in attendance. The Royal Highness opened the Project at Mothers' Square, E5, jointly received by the Newham Housing Group and the City and Hackney Health Authority.

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community and President, The Prince of Wales's Advisory Group on Disability, attended a reception at Inn on the Park, W1.

## Today's royal engagements

The Queen will attend the annual meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes at the Albert Hall at 3.00 to mark the federation's 75th anniversary.

The Duke of Edinburgh will attend the annual luncheon of the British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation at the Royal Albert Hall at 12.45, and, as a Fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering, will hold a reception at Buckingham Palace at 6.00.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will open the Hereward Wake Residential Centre and the Benham Sports Arena, Kings Park, Northampton, at 3.00, and open the new extension to St John's House for the Elderly at 4.10.

The Duchess of York, president, will attend the Hackney Housing Society annual show at the South of England Centre, Ardingly, West Sussex, at 11.00; and will attend the forty-fourth International Congress of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry at the Royal Lancaster Hotel at 2.15.

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Knitting and Crocheting Export Council, will attend the annual meeting and luncheon at the Berkeley Hotel at 11.45; and, as Honorary President of the Chartered Institute of Transport, will attend a meeting of the council at 8.00.

Princess Margaret will open the Gemma camera unit at Hertford County Hospital at 3.00. Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, will attend the Royal Household's Founder's Day Parade at 10.47.

The Duchess of Gloucester, patron, will visit the Brixton Neighbourhood Community Association at 2.30.

The Duke of Kent will unveil the Polish Air Force memorial in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral at 2.45; and, as a Royal Fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering, will attend a development appeal reception at Buckingham Palace at 5.45.

Prince Michael of Kent, as Patron of the Brooklands Museum Trust Appeal, will attend a luncheon to launch the appeal at the Naval and Military Club at 11.00.

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Commander Alistair Watson, RN and Mr Richard Armiter were in attendance.  
The Princess of Wales, President, laid the foundation stone of a new clinical block at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Fulham Road, SW3.

Subsequently, Her Royal Highness attended the launch of the Amateur Swimming Association's "Swimfit 90" venture at the Queen Mother Sports Centre, 223 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1.

The Hon Mrs Vivian Baring and Lieutenant-Commander Patrick Jephson, RN were in attendance.

**YORK HOUSE**  
ST JAMES'S PALACE  
June 6: The Duchess of Kent this morning visited the Bristol Cyrenaia Day Centre, New Street, and later, at Patron, visited the Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood Trust's Headquarters, 3 Nugent Hill, Colston, Bristol.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Theatre Royal, Downside Road, Bristol.

Mrs Peter Wilmet-Stewart was in attendance.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**  
RICHMOND PARK  
June 6: Prince Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy, attended by Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox, left Heathrow Airport, London, this morning to visit Portugal on the occasion of the Bicentenary of the Factory House, Oporto.

On arrival at the Airport, Her Royal Highness and Sir Angus Ogilvy were received by Senhor Manuel Corte Real (Chargé d'Affaires, Portuguese Embassy), Sir John Stow (Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) and Mr Robin Baxendale (Manager, Special Facilities, Heathrow Airport Limited).

The British Knitting and Crocheting Export Council, with its annual meeting and luncheon at the Berkeley Hotel at 11.45; and, as Honorary President of the Chartered Institute of Transport, will attend a meeting of the council at 8.00.

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Princess Margaret will open the Gemma camera unit at Hertford County Hospital at 3.00. Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, will attend the Royal Household's Founder's Day Parade at 10.47.

The Duchess of Gloucester, patron, will visit the Brixton Neighbourhood Community Association at 2.30.

The Duke of Kent will unveil the Polish Air Force memorial in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral at 2.45; and, as a Royal Fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering, will attend a development appeal reception at Buckingham Palace at 5.45.

Prince Michael of Kent, as Patron of the Brooklands Museum Trust Appeal, will attend a luncheon to launch the appeal at the Naval and Military Club at 11.00.

## OBITUARIES

**Joe Loss, LVO, OBE, one of the most enduringly popular bandleaders in this country, died aged 80 in a London hospital yesterday. He was born on June 22, 1909.**

OF ALL the major bandleaders who at one time dominated the entertainment scene in the United Kingdom, Joe Loss must be counted as the leader, since for long after the end of what has since become known as the "Big Band Era", he alone survived. He was the youngest of the men who fronted the huge dance orchestras of the Thirties and Forties, a group which numbered among its members names like Gerald, Lew Stone, Jack Payne, Jack Hylton, Henry Hall and Ambrose. But when changing public tastes and old age forced them into retirement, Joe Loss carried on.

For almost the whole of the half-century or more in which Loss ran his orchestra — its members changed but he stayed essentially the same — he was a household name. He was a big figure in his branch of show business within a couple of years of establishing his orchestra at the Astoria Ballroom in Charing Cross Road in 1930 and remained so until past his golden jubilee in 1980.

He once said that he played all kinds of dance music and always accepted new trends. But at the same time, he drew the line at playing punk music and never neglected the old "standards" for which he had become famous. For 40 years his signature tune had been "In the Mood", originally popularized by Glenn Miller, perhaps his nearest American counterpart but whose own career at the top had barely spanned seven years before his death. Loss's own version of "In the Mood" sold a million copies, and he went on to make numerous other hit records.

Loss always said that he never went into a ballroom with preconceived notions. "I read the floor and let them decide what I shall play." Usually at least one of his numbers would be "The Woodchoppers Ball", which he first played before the Second World War.

Joshua Alexander Loss was born the son of Israel Loss, a Russian-Jewish cabinet maker, who after service in the Boer War had settled in the Spitalfields district of East London. He was the youngest of four children and went to the Jewish Free School near Petticoat Lane. Even in those days he was immaculately turned out and a fellow pupil remembers his shining white collar and equally shining leather shoes.

His father's ambition was that he should become a classical musician and, indeed, the young Loss showed great promise. He gave his first concert at Toynbee Hall at the age of 10, an occasion marked by the fact that a practical joker had spread butter on his violin strings. Four years later he won a scholarship to the Trinity College of Music and received private tuition in the violin, too. What he did not tell his father was that very often instead of going to lessons he parked his violin in the box office of a local cinema and spent the evening watching the films and listening to the pianist play the sort of numbers he did not hear at college. He was also known to play the violin himself in a Commercial Street cinema.

At the age of 18, he was working professionally as a violinist at a cinema in Watford. Soon afterwards, he had two jobs simultaneously, in the orchestras of the Rialto and the London Pavilion cinemas, moving swiftly from a shift in the first theatre to another at the second. He then played for dancers at the Wimbledon Palais.

At 21, he formed his own orchestra and very soon afterwards was the number two group at the Astoria Ballroom in London's West End. Two years later, he was playing at the Kit Kat Restaurant, one of the most popular haunts of Edward, Prince of Wales and his entourage, which was the start of a very long association with the Royal Family, which made him virtually the "By



Appointment" bandleader to the Royal Household, playing at both private functions and State occasions at Buckingham Palace and at Windsor.

Perhaps the most important facet of his career was the fact that he knew which way his activities had to develop. From the mid-Thirties he broadcast regularly and his wartime *Music While You Work* programmes, and others in which he was featured several times a week, were eagerly awaited by a music-hungry public. He was a recording artist for what later became EMI for most of his career.

When the British Expeditionary Force landed in France, Joe Loss was there, too, with his band. Through the war he toured military establishments and munitions factories all over the country as well as in war zones overseas. After the war, he continued to tour the country with his band, often accompanied by a loyal group of fans who went virtually wherever he did, whether it was to a dance hall in Yorkshire or to one of the many appearances he made on Royal Variety Shows. His work entertaining the Royal Family was rewarded by his being appointed OBE in 1978, the year after receiving the Queen's Jubilee Medal. His appointment as LVO in 1984 was further recognition of the esteem in which he was held

by the Royal Family. The dance world presented him with its own "Oscar", the Carl Alan Award, 14 times.

He was a well-known television personality, too, appearing on *Independent Television* from its outset in 1955. He frequently played on the *Come Dancing* programme. In more recent years, his band did an annual stint on the QE2's world cruise (once being flown back to London so that he could play at the Queen's 50th birthday party) and he was on the ship when it sailed to China in 1979. He said one of the most momentous occasions in his life was when he played "In the Mood" and other Western "standards" in the People's Republic for the first time.

An example of his unique status in the world of entertainment was that he was twice chosen as the subject for television's *This Is Your Life* programme, introduced by Eamonn Andrews whom he himself had first brought over to Britain. Among his other discoveries were Vera Lynn and Spike Milligan, both of whom first broadcast in his radio programmes.

Loss's immaculately dressed figure — in more recent years in a white dinner jacket — contrasted greatly with the leaders of contemporary "bands". But he was always more than a conductor. Indeed one of his favourite sayings was that he had mar-

ried more people than any vicar — a reference to the large number of couples who claimed to have met at his dances. Loss was a highly energetic conductor. He moved on the bandstand quite as much as did the people for whom he was playing on the dance floor. He once fixed a pedometer to his shoe to try to discover just how much he did move in an evening. He found that he covered eight miles.

Joe Loss was a man who used to like recalling his past. His education at the Jewish Free School in Spitalfields in the East End made an indelible impression on him and he frequently said that it helped strengthen the roots that kept him in touch with the reality from which he might otherwise have escaped — particularly considering he was broadcasting weekly from the age of 23.

He was an intensely family-oriented man. When he put "playing with grandchildren" in his *Who's Who* entry none of his closest friends were surprised. At the time of his death, he and his wife Mildred, whom he married in 1938, were living in the same flat overlooking Regents Park to which they moved in 1946. The walls of one room were covered with photographs and memorabilia which he had collected over the years, including photographs of the two sovereigns for whom he played, King George VI and the present Queen, and the citations for his OBE and LVO.

One thing he could never remember was the number of records he had made. What he liked to recall was that his first discs were made for the Royal Zonophone Company, who at the time principally boasted Gracie Fields and the Salvation Army. "I think," he said, "they found me a fairly good balance between the two." Most of his recording output — sometimes two or three sides a week — was for EMI who gave him a 50-year contract, a distinction he believed he shared only with a different kind of musician, Yehudi Menuhin.

Actually Loss was also a different kind of band leader. Even in his heyday he did not associate with his colleagues. "They were showmen," he said, referring to Gerald and the others. "I just used to play for dancing." It was an understatement for a man whose name could guarantee Standing Room Only signs when he gave a dance band concert.

He was also a very good businessman and had a number of small bands which he would hire out for private functions, sometimes under other people's batons. Last year, when his kidney problems were first diagnosed as serious, he was told by his doctors to retire. He did — and immediately signed on to play for a QE2 cruise.

He is survived by his wife, and by their son and daughter.

## Marriages

**Mr R.A. Dickinson and Miss S.F.C. Emilian**  
The marriage took place on Saturday, May 26, at the Pieve Di San Fortunato, Montecatini, Italy, of Mr Alexander Dickinson, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Dickinson, of Styrishall, Stockfish, Northumberland, and Miss Simonetta Emilian, daughter of Signora and Signor Luciano Emilian, of 40 Rue Courbet, Paris, France.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, and was attended by Chloe Edwards, Anastasia and Valentine O'Donoghue, Laurens Pearson and Henry Dickinson.

**Mr Rupert Allison, Mr William Keeling and Miss Margaret Fraser and Miss Lucy Hayward** were witnesses.

A reception was held in Spello and the honeymoon will be spent in the Italian Islands.

**Mr S.J.P. Hood and Miss J.M. Frickett**  
A Service of Blessing took place on Saturday, June 2, at St Mary's Church, Weybridge, between Simon Hood, elder son of Mr R.A. and Dr M.T. Hood, and Judith Frickett, only daughter of Mr D.W. Frickett and the late Mrs E.G. Frickett.

The bride was attended by Miss Samantha Clark, Miss Victoria Hood, Miss Josephine Penn, Master James and Master Thomas-Lee True. The best man was Mr Nicholas True.

**Mr G.A. Wheatcroft and Miss S.A.N. Malik**  
The marriage took place on Tuesday, June 5, at St Peter's English Church, Siena, between Mr Geoffrey Wheatcroft, elder son of Mr S.F. Wheatcroft, of Park Walk, Chelsea, London, and of the late Mrs Wheatcroft, and Miss Sally Malik, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Muir, of Anners, Thorpe, Egham, Surrey. The Ven George Westwell officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Ruth Hanson and Daniel Gough. Mr Tobias Rodgers was best man.

## Requiem Mass

**Rear-Admiral Sir Matthew Slattery**  
Requiem Mass for Rear-Admiral Sir Matthew Slattery was celebrated yesterday by Father Vincent Hare, SJ, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Wilford, Nottingham.

Slattery, 67, died on May 26, after a long illness. He was born in London, the son of Mr and Mrs Robert Slattery, of Haslemere, Surrey.

Mr Slattery was a member of the Admiralty Staff, and was in command of the Royal Naval School of Maritime Studies, Portsmouth, from 1968 to 1978. He was also a member of the Admiralty Staff, and was in command of the Royal Naval School of Maritime Studies, Portsmouth, from 1968 to 1978.

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## Birthdays today

His Honour Sir Carl Aarvold, 83; Lady Elizabeth, 80; Mrs. Virginia Macdonald, 79; Mrs. Mary, 78; Mr. Derek Barron, 77; Mr. Derek Barron, 76; Mr. Derek Barron, 75; Mr. Derek Barron, 74; Mr. Derek Barron, 73; Mr. Derek Barron, 72; Mr. Derek Barron, 71; Mr. Derek Barron, 70; Mr. Derek Barron, 69; Mr. Derek Barron, 68; Mr. Derek Barron, 67; Mr. Derek Barron, 66; Mr. Derek Barron, 65; Mr. Derek Barron, 64; Mr. Derek Barron, 63; Mr. Derek Barron, 62; Mr. Derek Barron, 61; Mr. Derek Barron, 60; Mr. Derek Barron, 59; Mr. Derek Barron, 58; Mr. Derek Barron, 57; Mr. Derek Barron, 56; Mr. Derek Barron, 55; Mr. Derek Barron, 54; Mr. Derek Barron, 53; Mr. Derek Barron, 52; Mr. Derek Barron, 51; Mr. Derek Barron, 50; Mr. Derek Barron, 49; Mr. Derek Barron, 48; Mr. Derek Barron, 47; Mr. Derek Barron, 46; Mr. Derek Barron, 45; Mr. Derek Barron, 44; Mr. Derek Barron, 43; Mr. Derek Barron, 42; Mr. Derek Barron, 41; Mr. Derek Barron, 40; Mr. Derek Barron, 39; Mr. Derek Barron, 38; Mr. Derek Barron, 37; Mr. Derek Barron, 36; Mr. Derek Barron, 35; Mr. Derek Barron, 34; Mr. Derek Barron, 33; Mr. Derek Barron, 32; Mr. Derek Barron, 31; Mr. Derek Barron, 30; Mr. Derek Barron, 29; Mr. Derek Barron, 28; Mr. Derek Barron, 27; Mr. Derek Barron, 26; Mr. Derek Barron, 25; Mr. Derek Barron, 24; Mr. Derek Barron, 23; Mr. Derek Barron, 22; Mr. Derek Barron, 21; Mr. Derek Barron, 20; Mr. Derek Barron, 19; Mr. Derek Barron, 18; Mr. Derek Barron, 17; Mr. Derek Barron, 16; Mr. Derek Barron, 15; Mr. Derek Barron, 14; Mr. Derek Barron, 13; Mr. Derek Barron, 12; Mr. Derek Barron, 11; Mr. Derek Barron, 10; Mr. Derek Barron, 9; Mr. Derek Barron, 8; Mr. Derek Barron, 7; Mr. Derek Barron, 6; Mr. Derek Barron, 5; Mr. Derek Barron, 4; Mr. Derek Barron, 3; Mr. Derek Barron, 2; Mr. Derek Barron, 1; Mr. Derek Barron, 0.

His Honour Sir Carl Aarvold, 83; Lady Elizabeth, 80; Mrs. Virginia Macdonald, 79; Mrs. Mary, 78; Mr. Derek Barron, 77; Mr. Derek Barron, 76; Mr. Derek Barron, 75; Mr. Derek Barron, 74; Mr. Derek Barron, 73; Mr. Derek Barron, 72; Mr. Derek Barron, 71; Mr. Derek Barron, 70; Mr. Derek Barron, 69; Mr. Derek Barron, 68; Mr. Derek Barron, 67; Mr. Derek Barron, 66; Mr. Derek Barron, 65; Mr. Derek Barron, 64; Mr. Derek Barron, 63; Mr. Derek Barron, 62; Mr. Derek Barron, 61; Mr. Derek Barron, 60; Mr. Derek Barron, 59; Mr. Derek Barron, 58; Mr. Derek Barron, 57; Mr. Derek Barron, 56; Mr. Derek Barron, 55; Mr. Derek Barron, 54; Mr. Derek Barron, 53; Mr. Derek Barron, 52; Mr. Derek Barron, 51; Mr. Derek Barron, 50; Mr. Derek Barron, 49; Mr. Derek Barron, 48; Mr. Derek Barron, 47; Mr. Derek Barron, 46; Mr. Derek Barron, 45; Mr. Derek Barron, 44; Mr. Derek Barron, 43; Mr. Derek Barron, 42; Mr. Derek Barron, 41; Mr. Derek Barron, 40; Mr. Derek Barron, 39; Mr. Derek Barron, 38; Mr. Derek Barron, 37; Mr. Derek Barron, 36; Mr. Derek Barron, 35; Mr. Derek Barron, 34; Mr. Derek Barron, 33; Mr. Derek Barron, 32; Mr. Derek Barron, 31; Mr. Derek Barron, 30; Mr. Derek Barron, 29; Mr. Derek Barron, 28; Mr. Derek Barron, 27; Mr. Derek Barron, 26; Mr. Derek Barron, 25; Mr. Derek Barron, 24; Mr. Derek Barron, 23; Mr. Derek Barron, 22; Mr. Derek Barron, 21; Mr. Derek Barron, 20; Mr. Derek Barron, 19; Mr. Derek Barron, 18; Mr. Derek Barron, 17; Mr. Derek Barron, 16; Mr. Derek Barron, 15; Mr. Derek Barron, 14; Mr. Derek Barron, 13; Mr. Derek Barron, 12; Mr. Derek Barron, 11; Mr. Derek Barron, 10; Mr. Derek Barron, 9; Mr. Derek Barron, 8; Mr. Derek Barron, 7; Mr. Derek Barron, 6; Mr. Derek Barron, 5; Mr. Derek Barron, 4; Mr. Derek Barron, 3; Mr. Derek Barron, 2; Mr. Derek Barron, 1; Mr. Derek Barron, 0.

His Honour Sir Carl Aarvold, 83; Lady Elizabeth, 80; Mrs. Virginia Macdonald, 79; Mrs. Mary, 78; Mr. Derek Barron, 77; Mr. Derek Barron, 76; Mr. Derek Barron, 75; Mr. Derek Barron, 74; Mr. Derek Barron, 73; Mr. Derek Barron, 72; Mr. Derek Barron, 71; Mr. Derek Barron, 70; Mr. Derek Barron, 69; Mr. Derek Barron, 68; Mr. Derek Barron, 67; Mr. Derek Barron, 66; Mr. Derek Barron, 65; Mr. Derek Barron, 64; Mr. Derek Barron, 63; Mr. Derek Barron, 62; Mr. Derek Barron, 61; Mr. Derek Barron, 60; Mr. Derek Barron, 59; Mr. Derek Barron, 58; Mr. Derek Barron, 57; Mr. Derek Barron, 56; Mr. Derek Barron, 55; Mr. Derek Barron, 54; Mr. Derek Barron, 53; Mr. Derek Barron, 52; Mr. Derek Barron, 51; Mr. Derek Barron, 50; Mr. Derek Barron, 49; Mr. Derek Barron, 48; Mr. Derek Barron, 47; Mr. Derek Barron, 46; Mr. Derek Barron, 45; Mr. Derek Barron, 44; Mr. Derek Barron, 43; Mr. Derek Barron, 42; Mr. Derek Barron, 41; Mr. Derek Barron, 40; Mr. Derek Barron, 39; Mr. Derek Barron, 38; Mr. Derek Barron, 37; Mr. Derek Barron, 36; Mr. Derek Barron, 35; Mr. Derek Barron, 34; Mr. Derek Barron, 33; Mr. Derek Barr







## HEALTH

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

## A singer stopped in his tracks

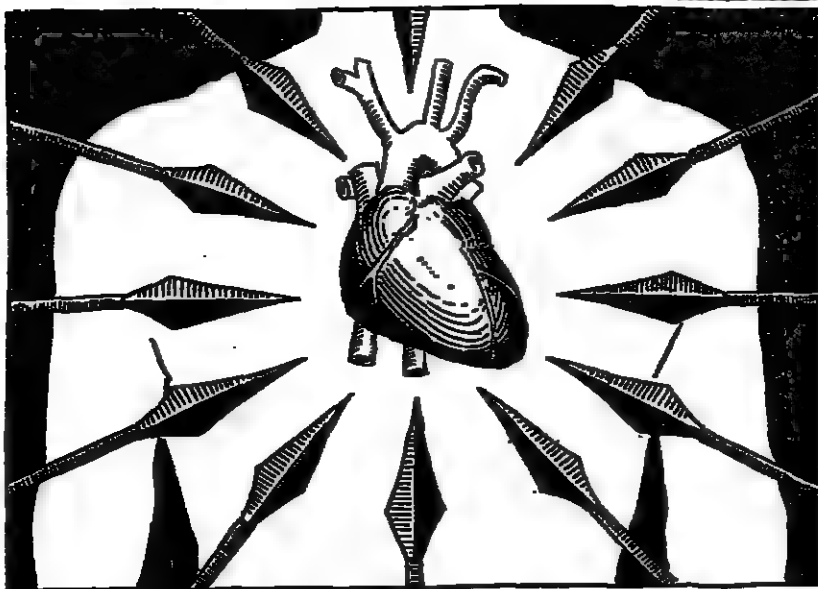
Michael Jackson, the 31-year-old eccentric singer who, despite selling more than 40 million copies of a single album, is almost as well known for the plastic surgery he has employed to redesign his face, as his voice, suffered chest pain this week severe enough to warrant his admission to hospital. He and his doctors, were concerned lest he had suffered a coronary thrombosis. The causes of chest pain are legion and in Mr Jackson's case the list must be even longer than usual, and the diagnosis trickier, for as well as being a fitness fanatic who is accustomed to spending hours a day torturing his body with violent physical exercise he is also a food faddist, who it is rumoured, lives for months on vegetables and brown rice.

Reports that a coronary had been diagnosed as a result of a single blood test which showed that the level of a cardiac enzyme was higher than usual are unlikely to be accurate. The diagnosis of a coronary thrombosis by plotting the blood levels of three enzymes, creatine phosphokinase, CPK, the aspartate amino transferase, AST, and hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase, HBD, which rise at different but predictable times over the three days following a heart attack, is always difficult; these tests are usually used only to provide confirmation of the evidence already raised from suspicious

changes in the ECG, the heart racing. In Mr Jackson's case, because of his enthusiasm for punishing exercise, the enzyme changes would be even more difficult to interpret than usual. For just as the muscle damage following a coronary thrombosis causes changes in the three enzymes, so does limb muscle damage caused by violent physical exertion. When, for instance, the enzymes of a hospital scientist were checked after a recent marathon they were found to be more than twice the upper limit of normal. The fraction of the first enzyme to rise, CPK, which can be separated from that due to damaged limb muscle but it is unlikely that a single reading would be considered diagnostic.

Slimming, too, might have confused the diagnosis. Mr Jackson is reported to be conscious of every superfluous ounce. Excessive dieting when accompanied by a low protein intake causes muscle loss from the heart which can result in an irregular heart rate which might well give rise to either chest pain, or the palpitations which patients often describe as chest discomfort.

Heart attacks in the early thirties are rare, but when they do occur it is usually because the patient belongs to the 1 per cent of the population who have inherited a tendency to hyperlipidaemia, either a high blood cholesterol,



or more rarely an increase in one of the other blood fats. These patients will need medical treatment with lipid-lowering drugs as well as dietary advice. Health education campaigns designed to reduce the incidence of heart disease by altering the lifestyles of whole communities by discouraging smoking, sloth and an over-fondness for saturated fats, are directed at the other 99 per cent of the population. There is evidence from those countries which have concentrated on health education that the reduction in heart disease which has followed the campaigns is in part due to a change in habits as well as to the natural ebb and flow of any disease. In a trial in Finland in the area which was subjected to a very intensive campaign, the heart attack rate fell by 24 per cent, whereas in the control area only by 12. Other trials suggest that improving diet by choosing foods rich in the anti-oxidants, vitamin C, vitamin E and beta-carotene may also reduce the chance of heart disease.

## A danger on the doorstep

Although William Grundy of Ambridge is still at his primary school, he is already following in the footsteps of those other *Archers* characters, his father Eddie, grandfather Joe, and his wicked uncle, a recidivist who makes only occasional appearances in the town. William's crime was to steal the milk off the doorsteps. He is not alone in doing this but unlike the magpies and jackdaws who have been taking the milk-bottle tops in parts of rural Northumberland he did take the whole bottle and not leave a residue of milk behind contaminated by *campylobacter jejuni*, which is the most common reported cause of acute diarrhoea in the United Kingdom. Four doctors from the Gateshead and Newcastle area who have been studying

outbreaks of *campylobacter* enteritis in the Gateshead area have been publishing their findings in *The Lancet*. Most of the 58 cases in one outbreak of diarrhoea could remember drinking cold milk which had already been attacked by birds. This small epidemic occurred over a three-month period on a housing development near to open countryside and many of the residents of the housing estate had seen magpies or jackdaws pecking at the milk tops. Nine milk bottles, four with their seals

intact and five whose caps had been pecked, were examined at the local public health laboratory; no undamaged bottle showed evidence of *campylobacter* but two of those ravaged by the birds were infected. *Campylobacter* has been isolated from the beaks of jackdaws, but the doctors are still unable to explain on medical or ornithological grounds why the outbreak was so localized, and why it was confined to a comparatively short period between May and July.

## Full plates for starters, please

There is increasing evidence that the traditional, but unpopular, advice to toddlers that if they want to grow up as big and strong as their parents they should eat up their food is scientifically sound. Data is now being presented which confirms nanny's contention that a child's eating pattern not only in the first few years of life, but also in the first few months, helps to determine its physical prowess as well as its intellectual ability in later life. The exact relationship is hard to prove because the effects of malnutrition are so often confounded by other aspects of poverty. Most studies have concentrated on the influence of long-term malnutrition, but in a recent letter to *The Lancet*, four Portuguese paediatricians compared the later development of 19 babies who suffered severe temporary weight loss when under the age of six months with a control group matched for home background and class. The study showed that even a short period of malnutrition in early infancy, despite in these cases being followed by a rapid recovery, carried with it the risk that at school age the previously affected children would be smaller and less intelligent than the control group, and not as well-developed as would be expected from the study of their brothers and sisters.

Dr Alan Lucas, from the Medical

Research Council's nutrition unit at Cambridge, has also been working on the importance of early feeding. In order to separate the effect of other socio-economic factors often associated with early malnutrition, factors which would be likely to provide a lack of intellectual stimulation, he is studying the long-term influence of minor changes in the feeding formula of 1,000 premature children who were randomly assigned to different but apparently nutritionally acceptable diets currently used in established medical practice. He has already shown that even very minor changes in the formula in the first month of life can have a significant influence in the baby's physical and intellectual growth judged by the times that they pass the milestones of the first year or two of childhood. His work already supports existing, but less statistically sound, evidence derived from retrospective studies which suggested that not only is a child's physical and mental development affected by early feeding but also its later ability to withstand infection, its likelihood of developing allergic or auto-immune disease, and even its liability to have a heart-attack in middle-age. Dr Lucas stresses that development of the brain is particularly dependent on good feeding in the first two years of life in general, and the first month or two in particular.

## The Cup that cheers and inebriates

Football is not a matter of life and death, the late Bill Shankly once told his critics in a moment of exasperation, "it's more important than that". The man who almost single-handedly restored Liverpool's fortunes would have been fascinated by the findings of a fellow Scot, Dr George Masterton. His research has given scientific weight to what Mr Shankly understood instinctively: that for the committed fan, the influence of a sport extends far beyond the stadium.

Dr Masterton, consultant psychiatrist at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, found that attempted suicides and referrals for mental illness in the area dropped significantly during, and for some time after, the past four World Cups. "The numbers were down by 15 and 20 per cent," he says. "It's not just the tournament itself, because the effect seems to last for about eight weeks afterwards. Nor is it only to do with Scotland participating, because they were knocked out in the first stages on each occasion."

"Somehow the football is a catalyst; it changes the way people behave and interact with each other. We don't know exactly how or why. It may be similar to what happens in wartime, when suicides also drop because people are distracted from their per-

Does the excitement of a big match make people nicer and more tolerant?  
Liz Gill investigates

sonal problems and have something else to talk and think about. What is particularly interesting is that the rates also dropped for women, whereas when you hear all the talk about disruption of family life and football widows you might expect them to go up."

A possible explanation, he says, is that men and women spend less time with each other during big sporting events and therefore have fewer opportunities for conflict. But that would not explain the post-tournament figures. "I wonder if it makes people nicer, more tolerant towards each other," he suggests.

Dr Masterton believes his findings would not be replicated in areas where football was not part of the culture, although other sports might show similar results. "When I worked in Somerset, for instance, no one was interested

in football, but they cared passionately about cricket. And you might get the same effect with rugby in Wales."

Football can be enormously influential on a community's well-being, says John Williams, co-director of the Centre for Football Research at Leicester University. "In 1972, when Sunderland unexpectedly won the FA Cup against Leeds United, employers on Wearside said levels of production went up, because the win raised morale so much. It's also said that when West Ham won the cup a couple of years after that, there was an upward flip in the birth rate in the East End of London nine months later."

"Although football is expensive to police, the police themselves argue that it saves massive costs elsewhere in terms of social problems. Your team's success can be good for you psychologically."

There can be negative aspects as well, Mr Williams says. "Anger and unhappiness about a game can spill over into other areas of life. You hear of men attacking their wives after an argument over the television. And if you over-identify with a team you can lose your sense of yourself as an individual."

Mr Williams believes the game offers men a much-needed outlet for their emotions. "Football is an excuse to cheer, about abuse, let off



Breaking the social rules: football gives men a much-needed outlet for emotions. "It is an excuse to cheer, shout abuse and let off steam"

steam and hug other men. Spectators do that as well as players when a goal is scored. Modern society offers men very few chances to show their feelings."

Dr John Fazey, a psychologist in the Sport Health and Physical Education Department at the University of North Wales, in Bangor, says the most important element of big sporting events is the escape they offer from other problems. "If you've had a frustrating day and you come home and spend two hours or more watching a match on television, then by the time it's finished the things that were upsetting you may have been forgotten. Over the next month we're going to have a

lot of people having a good deal of time out from their worries."

Watching the World Cup might be psychologically beneficial, but sitting slumped in front of the screen for hours is unlikely to improve physical health unless it inspires the viewer to exercise. Dr Fazey says this does happen. "Governing bodies of various sports often say they're inundated with requests after things like the Olympics, when lots of little girls suddenly want to become gymnasts. The interest, however, does tend to dissipate after a while."

John Balding, director of the Schools' Health Education Unit at Exeter University,

believes there is a trickle-down effect from big sporting occasions. The marathon leads to the mini-marathon, which in turn leads to the village fun run. Often, though, the big event only inspires those who are already highly motivated, he says.

Alcohol and football seem inextricably linked in this country in a way, Mr Williams says, that they are not elsewhere, and this seems to apply both to spectators at the match and at home. According to Dr Masterton, alcohol-related problems, both physical and mental, soar during the World Cup: the rate is double the

average in the last week of the tournament.

Increased alcohol consumption is often accompanied by snatched meals or junk food snacks. "You can put on a fair bit of weight in a month, which can then be hard to shift," says Dr Alex Mills, senior registrar in public health medicine at the Health Education Authority. "It's better to eat something like fruit rather than crisps and to go for a walk round the block at half-time and to drink moderately."

The thrills of a sport have a physiological effect on the spectator, releasing adrenalin, pushing up the pulse rate and raising the blood pressure. Although this is harmless for

most people, it could trigger an attack in someone with a heart condition, Dr Mills says.

When Dr Masterton made a computer search of medical literature to see if anything had been done on physical health in this field, all he found was a study done in West Germany in 1974, which showed a substantial increase in the number of patients with cardiac difficulties. "And that was the year they won," he says. "I'm sure it is physiologically stressing, but I think the stress is probably related to expectations. Germany expected to do well that year. I think it's probably even worse if you have your expectations raised and then dashed by losing."

## Nervy and irritable?

It's perfectly understandable. The day-to-day problems and pressures of life can get us all down at one time or another. We become nervy, irritable and awkward to live with. This can prevent us from relaxing, and so stop us sleeping. But don't worry: that's just when Kalms can give the extra help we need. Kalms is a combination of natural plant extracts which provides a gentle, non-habit forming remedy to soothe away nervousness and tension, relaxing us, and so allowing the restful sleep we need. Let Kalms help you relax.

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## BREATHING SPACE

David Gee

AS DIRECTOR of Friends of the Earth, I see health issues as a great mobilizing force. I spent about 20 years working for the TUC and trade unions trying to preserve and enhance the health of people at work—that's where my passionate interest lies. And now, with FOE of course I'm concerned with the health of the planet itself.

I try to keep as fit as possible—I lead a pretty stressful life, doing very demanding jobs and taking very seriously the care of three children and the household. To keep fit and save off a heart attack, I run pretty frequently. Once or twice a week I swim, and every Sunday morning I get up at seven o'clock to play tennis. Every morning when I get up I make a point of doing seven minutes' exercise—partly psychological in order to get a grip on the day and relax, partly as a means of keeping fit. Thirty press-ups and 15 knee-bends and a variety of other exercises. If I'm feeling depressed or out of control of life I tend not to want to do the exercises, so it becomes a little psychological hook to get hold of, to drag you back into tackling the world in the way it should be tackled. I tend to eat a lot and rapidly, which probably doesn't do me any good, but at 43 I'm in remarkably good health.



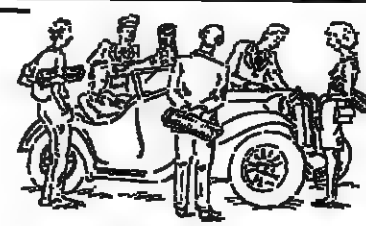
Recycling in the home is very important, but people aren't given any encouragement. I have three dustbins—one each for newspapers, bottles and aluminium cans—and every two or three weeks I pass a very good local authority collection point and dump them.

We've got four bikes at home. I used mine a lot last year during the rail strike. The bike levels were appalling high. It was most unpleasant—the small and realization that you were breathing in low-level carcinogens from the diesel fumes.

I've always been an optimist, and I remain so even though the problems we face are large. Probably there is only this decade left in which to take the right steps to save the world.

INTERVIEW BY PAMELA NOWICKA

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FICTION

# Old furies behind the fine façade

**Victoria Glendinning on the new collection of short stories from a veteran pro of love, only bulwark between life and death**

THESE STORIES are terrific. It's as if Edna O'Brien were an actress who had been one of the great ingenues of the age, playing Juliet and Desdemona (with the odd ambitious stab at Cleopatra), until she could go through the mazy motions of despairing love in her sleep. And then the actress takes a leap in the dark, and discovers that she has the authority and the resources to do something different.

The 12 stories are still inimitably O'Brien, in their lyric appreciation of handsome men and home-made cakes, in their now stylized Irish lilt, intensities, and spelling mistakes. Her throw-away details are as spot-on as ever, as when she instantly characterises a doting childless couple by remarking that they "make their own butterscotch". Her sometimes uneasy combination of pinched gentilities with wild, inspired phrases and images makes new and complete sense in this collection, in which behind the grim and proper façades of houses — and of people — chaotic impulses and furies suddenly erupt.

The narrator in "Epitaph" sees everyone as holding on, containing their violent emotions — just. "If their skins were peeled off, or their chest bones opened, they would literally burst apart." Jealousy, indecency, hysteria, dementia, howlings, and weepings break out in these stories, leaving shockwaves. In "Of in the Still Night", a devout woman in an Irish village, who does the church flowers for the reception of a visiting preacher, bursts apart in obscene madness, raped by a lily, exposing grey public hair to the terrified priest.

O'Brien is still writing about love — the "bulwark between life and death" — but love of various kinds, and not always named. The ageing Irish woman in "Brother" — which is funny as well

as acute — monologues muttering about the years she has spent "making his porridge and emptying his washbasin" and rubbing liniment into his back "down to the pudgily bits, the lupins", which has led to more intimate services. Now the brother plans to supplant her with a wife. The bitter sister has plans. "Roll on nuptials. Daughter of death is she."

The archetypal O'Brien heroine, obsessively mulling over a lover who let her down, is still here. "When you left, I marched and marched about my room, uncontrollable." But the emphasis

meets by chance the man she loves and who left her. It is she who refuses to resume the affair, knowing it cannot last, "no longer afraid of her emotions, no longer raving about bays and bougainvillea, but reaching right down to the root of the love or the lingering love that was there, hauling him out of himself, shuddering the lies and the little pretences, forsaking the wobbly balustrade that had been theirs". This is good writing, and good thinking.

In "Storm", the most accomplished story in the book, lovers are seen from the outside, with "an awful clarity" and something worse than irritation, by an older woman. She is on holiday in the Mediterranean with her son and his adoring girlfriend. "She sees her age and her separateness much more painfully here than when at home." Like other women in this collection, she feels she will "erupt and erupt", and, like the weather, she breaks. This is a very honest story, and includes a virtuous evocation of the mother's nervous anxiety, guaranteed to produce extreme vicariously maternal agitation in any reader.

It's a measure of the confidence and quality of this collection that one notices the relationship of the title story with Joyce's *The Dead* without a critical qualm. "Lantern Slides" is about "a smart gathering in a select part of the outskirts of Dublin — full, as Mr Conroy said, of nobles". Which means, of course, that the party was none of those things. But behind the pathetic boastings and subterfuges "you could feel the longing in the room, you could touch it", and defying Joyce, O'Brien ends not elegiacally but with a bursting-out of life and hope. (It's not as good, but it's good.) The deserted wife for whom the party is given announces that "being of a certain age" is not the worst time in a woman's life. O'Brien in her prime proves the point.

**LANTERN SLIDES**  
By Edna O'Brien  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson £12

has changed. The woman alone in a seaside hotel in "Another Time" lets go of the past as of some awful affliction, and what concerns the woman in "Epitaph", by the end of the story, is how to escape the prison of her love. She can see that "ours was a small tragedy", compared with the real tragedies of the world. "It is not that one cannot bear the parting; it is really that one cannot bear the meeting, because of so many constraints."

This question of how to part "decently" is the subject of "Long Distance", where the heroine



GLYNN BOYD HART

## Flies in the ointment

**Michael Wright**

**SOLOMON GURSKY WAS HERE**  
By Mordcaï Richler  
Chico & Windus, £13.95



scale, with a huge dramatic personality ranging from a tribe of Inuit to Sir Peter Hall and Ken Tynan (in a non-speaking role), the interweaving of fact and fiction is so beguiling that I was forced to look

up the Gurks in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, just in case.

At times, Richler's historical research threatens to overload the system; old Ephraim Gursky wanders through Victorian London "mindful of dippers and gonophs, slightly more distinguished near namesake. With unexpected greatness thrust upon him, Amos discovers a hitherto unsuspected genius for the splitting of diplomatic hairs, papering over apparently vast ideological divides with 'formulas' so vaguely worded as to offend no one and mean nothing.

Amos's particular misfortune, though, is to have to chair the most controversial world congress the WAA has ever held. The host nation, Malindi, has a strikingly poor record for jailing dissident writers, and Amos is already somewhat *mal vu* in the international literary community, for having contributed a glowing preface to a *Festschrift* celebration of a writer of whom he has read not a syllable, but who turns out to have

## The garbage of lit. activists

**Brian Morton**

**VISITING CARDS**  
By Francis King  
Constable, £11.95



been an exuberantly fellow-travelling Nazi. To make matters worse, his wife Laura is an unfaithful scold so shrewish that even Amos, Kingsley might have hesitated.

Where most men settle for one *anima* figure, Amos has acquired two. While Laura waits off with a local British Council man, the Swedish delegate Margaretta Svenson greedily eyes the presidency. Margaretta quickly recognizes that the lousy Malindian record on freedom of expression — coupled with the present incum-

ber's spinelessness (read: diplomacy) — is her trump card.

Francis King was himself an unusually effective President of International PEN, and he understands the politics of junketing particularly well. Where the best of his recent novels — *Acts of Darkness* and *The Woman Who Was God* — have disguised their humour in a black exterior, *Visiting Cards* is a confection with a tooth-breaking hard centre. King sees literary politics, with the Rushdie affair an inescapable presence, as a kind of

privileged shadow fight, out of touch with everyday realities. The book's most telling moment comes when a WAA delegation visits the imprisoned writers in Malindi's Lubjanka, and pile in with an earnest set of questions about food, accommodation, toilet facilities. These, though, are the obsessions of privileged people on a freebie, not of prisoners of conscience. All they are concerned about is the denial of writing material. King pushes home the point by having Amos, driven to self-abuse by the disappearance of his wife, and by a rather non-specific lust for the tiny Japanese versifier who is his sponsor, mistake her scroll-poem (which is in itself a rare evidence of actual literary activity) for a Kisenex. Seriously, King is working a long exposed seam, with Bradbury's *Rates of Exchange*, Lodge's *Small World*, and Stoppard's *Professional Foul* all before him. What he suggests, though, in a very English euphemism of his title, is that writers and their entourage of academics and critics do very little more for a shrinking world than leave their messes on its doorstep — and all in the name of "conscience."

## Counting Japanese sheep

**Sabine Durrant**

**A WILD SHEEP CHASE**  
By Haruki Murakami  
Hansish Hamilton, £13.99  
**LIGHT CAN BE BOTH WAVE AND PARTICLE**  
By Ellen Gilchrist  
Faber, £12.99  
**JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME**  
By Gillian Tindall  
Hutchinson, £12.95  
**DARKNESS FALLS**  
By Joyce Anne Schneider  
Heinemann, £12.95

THE HERO of Haruki Murakami's *A Wild Sheep Chase* loses things. The novel opens with the funeral of his ex-girlfriend and ends with the disappearance of his new one. In the middle he contrives to mislay his wife, his home-town, his job, his cat, even his twenties. "People can generally be classified into two groups," says the black-suited secretary who controls his destiny with the cold efficiency of a telephonist operating a switchboard, "the mediocre realist and the mediocre dreamer. You clearly belong to the latter."

It is the dislocated world of sleep that best describes the course of the novel. The obsessive pursuit at its heart is a hunt for a white sheep with a black star on its back. The hero is in effect reduced to passing his days counting sheep, but throughout maintains his Marlowesque cool, even when the wool is being pulled over his eyes. (Murakami translates Chandler in his spare time, a hobby to which his own style bears witness.)

As you might imagine, it is no ordinary sheep. It has the ability to enter the bodies of simple mortals, and the ambition to control the world. (Genghis Khan was, apparently, a peace-loving cove until taken over by his ovine operator.) And it is no ordinary hunt. Fired by cigarettes and whisky, the hero steers through a flock of weird individuals: the Sheep Professor, the Rat, the chauffeur with the direct line to God, the girl with the cars that stop traffic. Haruki Murakami is Japan's best-selling novelist. *A Wild Sheep Chase* has already sold four million copies. One should not be surprised. Despite its quirky style and a ludicrous plot, it is compelling. Coincidence and the occasional twinge of extraneous perception sep. too, through Ellen Gilchrist's fourth collection of short stories, *Light Can Be Both Wave and Particle*. Despite the off-putting title, this is an enchanting book. Gilchrist swings between the familiar and the shocking, the

everyday and the traumatic. She writes about ordinary happenings in out of the way places (Fayetteville, Arkansas, Jackson Mississippi), of meetings between recognizable characters from her other fiction (Rhoda and Anna for example) and strangers (a genetic scientist from China, a school teacher from Seattle), above all of domestic routine disrupted by violence. Here bored Southern housewives cope with an armed siege; a railway journey ends with a bloody premature birth; a child's game is disrupted by a poked-out eye. It is disorienting stuff, but controlled always by Gilchrist's wry tone and gentle insight.

Gillian Tindall's *Journey of a Lifetime* is also impeccably structured, but the patterns are predictable. Each of the tales contains a departure, a soul-searching, and a final twist. For all its aspirations to Grand Tour the twists double back, and you end up not much farther on from when you started. Part of the problem with the book is the discrepancy between the hugeness of the philosophical questions troubling its characters, and the triviality of the trips that inspire them. The journeys are more to do with sustenance, hotel foyers, and coach parties than with alien ways and foreign vistas. The travellers are united by

the insipidity of their response to foreign cities.

The best of the stories confront the inadequacy of this reaction. "An Independent Woman", for example, concerns the visit of a dowdy career woman to a once wild schoolfriend now married to a Muslim in Lahore. The extent to which they have grown apart is neatly illustrated by their respective attitudes to sight-seeing. The guest is hungry for the dirt and colour of the old city, the hostess eager to show off the new Mall. The prose arranges the irreconcilable, bringing them together in order to spring them apart.

You would have to look hard for subtle arrangements in Joyce Anne Schneider's mystery novel, *Darkness Falls*. The buddy is easily recognisable by his "square face", and his fondness for cobwebby gloom. The goodies have their goodness ascribed to them with the simplest of shorthand (Amanda listens to Aretha Franklin or Brahms on her car stereo). The plot involves a drowned girl, a psychiatrist's tapes, and all kind of complicated business involving properties and keys. Holiday reading perhaps — unless you happen to be an estate agent.

### AUTHORS

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'Spy novel triumphs over the age of Glasnost'  
The Sunday Times

# JOHN leCARRÉ

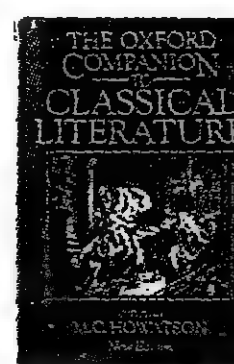
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## BOOKS

# Spelling it out without dirty bits

Melvyn Bragg, whose new novel includes explicit descriptions of sexual activity, considers how attitudes to sex and eroticism in literature have altered in the past 100 years

Children of my generation were conditioned to regard descriptions of sex as "dirty bits". The literature we inherited at school was safely handed down by custom and excision and ended around the First World War. We were Victorian throw-backs. In my corner of the regional outback, in which Hardy would have moved comfortably, the life reflected the work. The bedroom door closed. A look and an embrace had to take the strain. Marriage and, presumably, procreation were left stranded in impossible expectation at the end of the last chapter. Sex was a lower order, a lower organ, beneath the salt, unranked in the battalions of literature. Real English authors did not have explicit sex.

It had no proper place in our daily lives, either. The parts, the act, even the biological functions were never mentioned in my day, and the suppression bred a vigorous underground and subversive movement.

This began with ludicrously lewd "jokes", told and told again between the ages of 10 and 13: jokes which depended on sexual names from the wildest shores of caricature and predictable punch-lines (only half understood), which triggered spasms of common cackling. It moved to jock-strap innuendo in the changing rooms - again reporting an all-male experience - until finally, in late teens, some sense and experience were brought to bear on the case.

Innocence was the prize, ignorance was then the prop. Then people either continued to enjoy "the dirty bits" through pornography - which has never held any appeal for me, its exploitative sourness more than annulling any curiosity value - or they puzzled their way through the increasingly bold fiction of the 20th century. Sex came out of the bedroom like an avenger. To my generation in Britain, however, the main reaction to it continued to be anxiety.

Which was odd, for a number of reasons. In American fiction of the 1950s and 1960s (for example, take the contemporary work of the mainstream writer, John Updike), sex was a lush, densely described, vivid presence. True, there was still the distancing, even if only in jest. I remember Mary McCarthy saying she would like to meet Philip Roth - after *Portnoy's Complaint* - but "did not want to shake his hand".

Yet in homosexual novels there were explicit descriptions. In the 1980s, writers of distinction played games with pornography and "bad

taste", and sex has become commercial in the "sex-and-shopping" novels.

In this briefest headline history a generation, mine, appeared to be beached. "Dirty bits" they still somehow were, with D.H. Lawrence invoked by some to make others realize the essential importance of sexuality, and dismissed by others for what was deemed his blushing-making and tasteless clumsiness.

Lately, a new movement - in novels, comics, comedy and literature generally - seems devoted to the notion that sex is to be sniggered over or laughed about or, more important, dismissed as boring and irrelevant. In my own life I find it neither boring nor irrelevant. It was part - let me stress, part, but a marvellous part - of the most powerful experiences and times I had known. But until recently I described it, if I

described it at all, as if it were held away in a pair of tongs.

In my new novel, *A Time To Dance*, the story of an overwhelming love affair - the dazzling and dark side of such an encounter - there is very explicit writing about sex. It is not pornographic. It is not reductive. It has to do with a love affair which is obsessive and erotic and even perhaps possessed by the soul. It took some doing for this representative of that generation of Englishmen, now aged 50.

For one thing, as a lover of much of our English literature, I too had enjoyed the multiple metaphors for sex, and the frissons of omission. E.M. Forster's off-the-page sexuality was yeast to my imagination. The strained, crystallized, restrictive torment of Hardy's hints and Henry James's almost unbearable foreplay were strange incitements. Nabokov, of course (and others, but he most

decisively), both added to that and undermined that tradition. But he was a genius and, besides, came from another culture.

Yet *Lolita* - not so much the story as the telling, if one can separate the two - set off a small fire from which my novel grew. As did the behaviour of Nora Barnacle, James Joyce's wife. And there is little sustenance from the merely raunchy writers, such as Henry Miller, whom the arguments of the feminists marginalized.

And so the list could grow. But what was a Victorian Cumbrian Protestant working-class free transfer to metropolitan media middle-class novelist to do about it all? Wait, as it turned out, until the "something" turned up that mattered. The image, the line, the opportunity and the nerve.

I wrote a historical novel called *The Maid of Buttermere* a few years ago, in which the key event was the

marriage between a notorious impostor and bigamist who had lived all her life intact in a remote valley in the Lake District. The fraudulent marriage ruined him utterly, and it threatened to ruin her.

The more I examined the facts - and there are a surprising number, the incident became a great scandal of the age - the more it seemed that both must have sensed the marriage would be a disaster. But nevertheless they went ahead with it.

My conclusion was that sexual obsession drove them into an arrangement which was the only one her background and character would allow for the satisfaction of this obsession. A love which has to be expressed and satisfied, even though destruction is an inevitable consequence, became a notion to which I wanted to return.



Passion: Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor acting together, and Sue Lyon and James Mason in the film of *Lolita* (above right)



Curiously in the book I next wrote, *Rich* - the biography of Richard Burton - I found another example of an utterly compulsive love which clearly signalled destruction from the beginning. Burton's fascination for Taylor - and his involvement with her and her with him in entries too dangerous to print in the published book - echoed and reinforced what had happened in Buttermere. That is the idea of a man and a woman being out of control in a passion which, they know, will likely lead to destruction as to any placid conclusion, and yet committing themselves to it with all their senses, perhaps wholly unable to stop themselves.

Two other sources, (with hindsight) confirmed my interest in this. One is the *Liber Amoris* of William Hazlitt, which astonished me. I had read Hazlitt at school with the most enormous pleasure, and discovered some time later that he had jeopardized - and lost - his marriage and his reputation, at the age of 42, for the returned and skittish regard of a 16-year-old. I wanted to write about him and that cataclysm of love and jealousy in his tormented intellectual life. That was subsumed, I think, in *A Time To Dance*, as was the story of the play and film *The Blue Angel*. The central image of this story, that of the wrecked schoolteacher's complete humiliation, was again (who knows why?) something which clung around and emerged for this particular novel.

And so, out of the blue, came the opening sentence: "Darling Bernadette, as you have forbidden me to talk to you I must write." Unravelling that led to the novel, which concerns the unexpected, overwhelming and jealous passion of a 54-year-old man for an 18-year-old woman, who is, it transpires, as compelled by him as he by her.

This is not the place to outline the plot or comment on the book, other than to say that in the context of the piece it attempts to tell a story of the whole of what is involved in a passionate and even uncontrollable love. Inevitably, it exposes itself and inevitably that will be remarked on. That is because it deals not with the niceties of affection, which are so important and so well-charted, nor the bludgeoning of pornography or cynical sexuality, but passion and eroticism, total and blind to everything else.

● *A Time to Dance* will be published next Monday by Hodder & Stoughton at £12.95.

## CRITIC'S CHOICE LITERATURE

**PATRICK BARLOW:** Founder of the often hilarious National Theatre of Brent and author of *All The World's A Globe*. A chance to hear him discuss the history of the human race in a calm, rational manner with Griff Rhys Jones. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (071-830 0493), today, 1pm, £2 plus £1 membership.

**POEMS ON THE UNDERGROUND:** Last in the series of lunchtime readings presented by Poems on the Underground. Thomas Hardy poetry and prose compiled and read by Cicely Herbert and Gerard Benson. Part of the 150th anniversary celebrations. British Library, Seminar Room, Great Russell St, London WC2 (071-838 1544), today, 1pm, free.

**THE GREEN AWAKENING:** The latest edition of Poetry Review focuses on green concerns. "Nothing in nature is simply itself any more... Where does that leave us - not only 'nature poets' but all of us who use the natural world as a point of reference?" Philip Gross sets the theme for an evening of poetry, song, and discussion.

Alison Brackenbury, David Gascoyne, Helen Dunmore read with Philip Gross; Leon Rosselson sings his witty and densely-worded songs; and the poet, Philip Gross, new editor, chairs a discussion with Norman Willis (TUC), Simon Mundy (Director, National Campaign for the Arts), and Ivan Hattings (Director, World Wildlife Fund).

**Poetry Society, 21 Earl's Court Square, London SW5 (071-370 6929), tonight, 7.30pm, £2.50 (£2, £1.25 members).**

**ROSALIND BELDEN, LEE HARWOOD AND TOM RAWORTH:** Undoubtedly the reading of this week. Among Belden's five novels are *The Limit*, *Dreaming of Dead People* and last year's *Is Beauty Good?* Harwood has published 16 books of poetry over the past 20 years, represented by the major collection *Crossing the River* (Penguin) and his past work appears increasingly poignant, determined to articulate positive qualities of beauty against a disenchanted world. By contrast, Raworth writes fast and witty poems, delivered at breakneck speed. He is a truly jazz-inflected poet; from line-to-line and word-to-word, it twists and bobs, it soars. The publication of *Twisting the Blade* (Penguin), a selection of work from 1983-1987, confirmed him as a major poet whose achievements are sadly neglected in his homeland.

Battersea Arts Centre, Old Town Hall, Lavender Hill, London SW11 (071-223 2223), tomorrow, 8.15pm £3 (£2).

**KATHERINE GALLAGHER, CAROLINE PRICE, MYRA SCHNEIDER AND FRANCES WILSON:** Four poets, Gallagher best known of the group, read from and discuss their work. Palmers Green Library, Green Lanes, London N21 (081-886 3728), Sat, 7.30pm, £2 (£1.50).

**LENN SIBSAY AND LEVI TAFARI:** Sibsay has a very strong reputation as an accomplished entertainer. His dynamic delivery and charming introductions mark him out. The poems, however, often fail to challenge us as strongly as the political music of his subject matter deserves. Levi Tafari, a club stylist, completes the programme. Willesden Green Library Centre, 85 High Road, London NW10 (081-451 0294), Sat, 8pm, £3 (£2).

**NEW VOICES:** Three poets based in the East Midlands, each of whom has received a writer's bursary to further their work. Allen Dunnett, playwright and theatre director, John Gales, whose work is concerned with "the blessings of disorder and the comedy and bravery of those who try to inflict order upon the world", Elizabeth Smith whose writing is about issues arising out of cultural, class, and race differences. Fagins Book Shop, Market Street, Leicester (0533 554854), tomorrow, 8pm, £2 (£1).

**WATERSHED MEDIA CENTRE:** Readings forming part of a feminist book fortnight. Joan Barfoot, Canadian writer and journalist, will read from and discuss her latest novel, *Family News*, published this month. Other books for which she is known include *Dancing in The Dark* and *Over Three* (London, 7.30pm). Alison Fell and Leslie Dick, *Serpent's Tale* have just published *The Seven Cardinal Virtues*, written by seven of our sharpest women writers. Two of these, Alison Fell, representing Christianity, and Leslie Dick, Generosity, discuss their relative merits and read some of their work (Mon, 7.30pm).

**THE HARD EDGE CLUB:** This week's featured writers are the Nigerian, Patience Agabari, Frank Banger (known as a punk blues poet), and the tough-talking Sue Johns, Russell Sels and Nick O'Neill. One of the liveliest and most unpredictable readings series in London at present. The Red Lion (upstairs), Great Windmill Street, London W1 (071-732 4007), Mon, 8.30pm, £2.50, (£1).

**GEORGE BUCHANAN:** A celebration of the work of dedicated European poet George Buchanan, who died last year. Readings of his work by several well-known poets, including Michael Longley, James Simmons, and William Ousey. Buchanan's work is generous and spirited and deserves far wider recognition. The Poetry Society (as above), Tues, 7.30pm, £2.50 (£2 and £1.25).

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## THEATRE

# Nightmares and nicotine

Simon Gray is no respecter of critics and his latest play has just reached the West End, but he agreed to meet and talk about it with one of our theatre critics, Jeremy Kingston



Simon Gray, directing his new play *Hidden Laughter*

Simon Gray does not love theatre critics, and some of them he has frankly loathed. The pack of dismal *Old Boys* who meet a variety of horrid deaths in his last television play were given the names of Wardle, Coveney, Billington et al, and some of the minor details of their family life were uncannily correct. Only a playwright's joke, of course, but as I looked at the two drinks on the table between us I wondered if I should discreetly switch the glasses.

I had suggested we talk about his new play over the telephone, safely separated by five miles of cable, and it was Gray who suggested a drink at the Groucho Club, where he is a member and I am not, so that I was unable to buy the drinks. He is a tall man, heavily built, and except when lighting another Silk Cut he kept his eyes on me.

He has smoked heavily for years. "I tried nicotine chewing-gum for a time, but in one of the worst nightmares of my life I was holding a great mass of the stuff out in front of me, with hairs growing all over it. I'd rather have the smoking than the nightmares."

*Hidden Laughter*, starring Felicity Kendal and Peter Barkworth, and directed by Gray, is now previewing at the Vaudeville. Set in a West Country cottage, it follows the fortunes - "mostly misfortunes" - of a London family weekendening there over a period of 13 years.

Is it a comedy? "Oh, people laugh." Gray's plays, however, are never quite that simple. The wit, the dagger-sharp observation and the general muddle his characters make for themselves is shot through with a bleak vision of life: "old life itself", as one of the men in *The Common Pursuit* ruefully remarks. Gray considers himself an optimist, but

possibly in the way that Chekhov thought of himself as a writer of comedies.

This will be his 16th play in 24 years, not counting seven television plays and two adaptations for the National Theatre, but counting the two versions of *The Common Pursuit* as one. This makes him our most prolific playwright after Ayckbourn.

Except for the five Victorian explorers in *The Rear Column*, going to pieces in the upper reaches of the Congo, his characters are drawn from the circles he has moved and worked in since he arrived in Cambridge as a postgraduate at the age of 22: novelists, agents (one of each is featured in *Hidden Laughter*), lecturers, schoolmasters, publishers.

They are literate, witty and doomed to disappointment, if nothing worse, when the final curtain falls. In fact, the circles they whirl in are those of a 20th-century and intensely English *Inferno*, except that, unlike the world of Dante's phantoms, comedy keeps breaking in. With the exception of the Congo one, all his plays, even the almost elegiac *Close of Play*, in which Sir Michael Redgrave gave his last performance, are frequently thunderously funny.

One of the language tutors in *Quarantine's Terms* comments, as he watches his foreign students learning croquet, "They'll discover how much incivility is possible on our tranquil English lawns." It is a discovery Gray himself continues to make and display to us. And not incivility to others alone, though half-a-dozen of his men - usually those played by Alan Bates - would win medals for that in Hell. On tranquil lawns and Cambridge rooms and London offices Gray's cultivated Englishmen and women are shown being grossly uncivil to themselves.

Sometimes they smoke too much - hard to forget Rik Mayall's backing cough by the end of *The Common Pursuit* - but mostly they disjoin their lives through all too recognizable fear, fear of failure (not famous enough, not sexy enough), fear of success, above all the fear of changing their lives. Somewhere before the plays begin, idleness or rivalry or the dashed hope of childhood love has wormed its way into their hearts and none of them dares shake it out.

You do not have to be foreign to fathom the English, but it helps. Though Gray might seem as English as they come (Westminster, Trinity, days spent at Lord's and the Oval) his early years may have given him just enough of an outsider's edge for him to learn, as the language schools might put it, the English as a foreign people. Evacuated to Canada during the War, he returned with a crewcut and Montreal accent, and after his schooling he went back to take his degree at Hamilton, Nova Scotia.

He drew on his experiences there for his first two novels, written while still at Cambridge. "I loved Hamilton," he says. "It was a marvellous place." Perhaps it lies too far in the past to be a spur for drama. Or he was just too happy there.

One day, as an Englishman, he might tackle Canadians as a foreign people. For the time being, England presents territory rich and convoluted enough for his beady eye and pen. If the smoking and the nightmares spare him.

● *Hidden Laughter* previews at the Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, London WC2 (071-836 9887) are Monday to Friday 7.45pm, Saturday 5pm and 8.30pm. First Night June 12, 7pm.

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ARTS

CINEMA

# Post-glasnost, some prefer it cold

David Robinson on the week's new films, including *The Package*, *Clean and Sober*, *Diamond Skulls*, *3 Women in Love* and *Creator*

The villains in espionage thrillers change nationality from generation to generation, according to the shifts of international politics. Throughout the 30 years embraced by two World Wars, spies, saboteurs and secret agents were fairly certain to be Germans. With the Cold War, the Communists usurped them. The liberal spirit of the late Sixties gave a look-in now and then to CIA renegades or dubious parties from the Middle East; but Russians stayed pre-eminent in the cloak-and-dagger business right up to and beyond perestroika.

The villains of *The Package* (15, Odeon, Leicester Square) are nothing if not up-to-the-minute: a conspiracy of extreme right-wing hawks drawn from the high military establishments of the US and the USSR, and bent on restarting the Cold War. This they plan to achieve with an assassination during the latest disarmament conference.

The influence of newscasts is strong in the staging of the preparations for the conference and state visit. The Soviet president is a Gorbachev look-alike; and familiar aspects of the Kennedy assassination figure in this conspiracy. At the same time, there is a reassuring respect for a thriller tradition that goes back beyond Le Carré and Richard Condon to Hitchcock and John Buchan. The hero is very like a Buchanan-Hitchcock hero, a fugitive from his own side as well as from a powerful, malign conspiracy of villains, who have a protean ability to assume any guise.

John Bishop's screenplay is a maze of complications, yet always remains lucid, as the tough, resourceful hero (Gene Hackman) is swept from peril to peril, in company with his quick-witted ex-wife (Joanna Cassidy) and a seasoned Chicago detective (Dennis Franz). Tommy Lee Jones is the tough, menacing assassin.

*The Package* is very much what

a cloak-and-dagger thriller should be: economical in writing, too fast to permit reflection on its probability, well-paced, well-staged, with simple but strongly defined characters and precise casting. The director was Andrew Davis.

The traditional Hollywood drug movie is about teenagers who get into bad company, have a lot of fun on the downward path and narrowly escape dramatically tragic finales. *Clean and Sober* (15, Warner West End) is new and contemporary in taking a mature addict from the professional middle class, and seeing him through the trying and undramatic process of a cure.

Michael Keaton plays a successful real estate salesman whose motive for checking into the clinic is far from desire to cure his cocaine and alcohol addictions. Rather, he seizes on the anonymity promised by the clinic as a sanctuary after a one-night bed companion dies of an overdose, at the same time that a slight case of embezzlement looks like catching up with him.

Keaton manages to sustain our concern for a character who — certainly in his addicted egocentricity — is essentially unsympathetic; and the successive phases of the cure, the passage from resentful resistance to willing co-operation, are carefully studied. He at first fights off the help of former addicts — Morgan Freeman in a very different role from that of Miss Daisy's driver; and M. Emmett Walsh — but in the end finds himself trying desperately to support others. His liaison with a young woman from the other side of the tracks contributes the film's less convincing scenes.

The therapeutic intention of the film is undoubted and admirable; and there is something homespun and touching in the maxim of the first-time director, Glenn Gordon Caron, a former screenwriter: "You can't dig a hole so deep that you still can't climb out of it. This is one of the glories of being a

human being." Yet with all its merits, the hero's odyssey makes a heavy-going two hours' viewing.

The feature debut of documentary director Nick Broomfield, *Diamond Skulls* (18, Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue), presents a rather partial view of the English landed aristocracy as degenerate, corrupt and ruthlessly self-serving. This particular dynasty lives in a Palladian palace in Yorkshire, where the paying public peer into the dining-room, the walls are cracking from the subterranean encroachments of the NCB, and the lavatories are a marathon run from the bedrooms. Lord Crews (Michael Hordern) has mellowed into graciously libidinous senility. His lady (Judy Parfitt) has a freezing smile and snobbery that gives no quarter. Sir Hugo (Gabriel Byrne), heir to the title and the film's protagonist, is incestuous, a sadist (to draw a veil over other sexual quirks) and the victim of pathological jealousy.

His vicious younger sister has picked up a very common accent, more Queen's Park Rangers than the Stowe variety. His little son, in preparation for boarding school, is submitted to an archaic gentlemen's barbershop where forelocks have been worn away with constant tugging.

Their friends are lager-louts whose high spirits, in the privacy of the officers' mess or the baronial hall, would make football hooliganism seem decorous by comparison. Pity those from the lower ranks, socially or economically, such as Hugo's wife (Amanda Donohoe) or the sacrificial victim in this particular story (Douglas Hodge).

It is a social view which even Dave Spart or Ken Livingstone might consider a trifle stunted; but Tim Rose Price's script makes it the background for a suspense thriller about obsession and conspiracy. The story begins with Hugo, driving with four friends, committing a hit-and-run killing. Out of this, Rose Price develops a



Old-fashioned heroics: Gene Hackman and Tommy Lee Jones in Andrew Davis's *The Package*

tangled web of dark doings. Broomfield, whose aggressive documentaries might have prepared us for his fierce social view, directs effectively, even if he is over-kind of ominous and enigmatic close-up details. It is sometimes intriguing, though never believable.

*3 Women in Love* (Cannon Piccadilly and Tottenham Court Road, 18) is an erotic game devised by the German director Rudolph Thome and originally titled *Der Philosoph*. The philosopher, a bookish and virginal young man, one day walks into a men's boutique with the innocent intent of buying a suit. Instead he finds himself kidnapped, body and soul, by the "Three Graces" — they claim to be "time agents" —

who run the establishment. Cartesian philosophy and four-in-a-bed turn out to be happily reconcilable. Thome, a solemn-seeming fellow, writes, "I am playing, and of course, I'm ironical, but I am also extremely serious." The pleasant cast all enter so merrily into the film's undress, that any seriousness might easily be forgotten.

Creator (15, Odeon Mezzanine, Leicester Square) has been sitting on the shelves since 1985, which is not entirely surprising. It charges dizzily in all directions, without ever deciding where it is going. Peter O'Toole is the only one to stay more or less astride this bucking bronco of a film, clinging grimly to his well-known Irishman's imitation of an English

eccentric: haw-hawing, looking down his handsome nose and chewing a nine-inch cigar.

O'Toole plays a Nobel Prize-winning biologist, dedicated to recreating the cells of his 30-year-old wife. In addition, though, there are plots and sub-plots — variously comic, erotic, farcical, tragic and philosophical — involving college politics; the amorous pursuits of the biologist's assistant (Vincent Spano); the conquest of love over death; and the biologist's own liaison with a self-styled teenage nymphomaniac (Mariel Hemingway).

Adapting his own novel, Jeremy Leven crams in so much action and so many half-formed ideas that all is wrecked. The director was Ivan Passer.

CRITIC'S CHOICE: VIDEO

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

**APARTMENT ZERO** (20:20 Vision, 15): Ponderous psychological drama with a drab film-buff flavour, featuring Colin Firth as a repressed British cinephile in Argentina. Directed by Martin Donovan. 1989.

**CHECKING OUT** (CBS/Fox, 15): Strained black comedy, with Jeff Daniels as a PR man stricken by hypochondria. An inauspicious American debut for David Leland, writer-director of *Wish You Were Here*. 1989.

**THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL** (CBS/Fox, U): Robert Wise's science-fiction classic about Koss (Michael Rennie), the extra-terrestrial diplomat trying to stop war. Exciting, intelligent; music by Bernard Herrmann. 1951.

**DRAGNET** (CIC, PG): Failed attempt to parody the TV police series, with Dan Aykroyd as the strait-laced cop teamed with a freewheeling colleague (Tom Hanks). Amusing at first, but the film drives itself into a cul-de-sac. 1987.

**THE DREAM TEAM** (CIC, 15): Agreeably anarchic adventures of four psychiatric patients let loose on Manhattan. Gobs of sentimentality hang heavy at times, but sprightly performances (Michael Keaton, Peter Boyle, Stephen Furst) win the day. Director, Howard Zieff. 1989.

**FANTASTIC VOYAGE** (CBS/Fox, U): Tired characterizations, but the notion of miniaturized doctors rushing through a scientist to operate on his brain is screaming, and the sets are huge. Stephen Boyd, Raquel Welch. 1955.

**I'M GONNA GET YOU SUCKA** (Warner, 15): Wild send-up of the black-action movies of the Seventies, featuring such luminaries as Jim Brown and Bernie Casey. A first feature for writer-director-star Keenen Ivory Wayans. 1989.

**THE SICILIAN** (CBS/Fox, 18): Michael Cimino's botched life of the Sicilian outlaw Salvatore Giuliano (Christopher Lambert). Sluggish, flatly written, waywardly acted; at least the landscapes look believable. 1987.

**THE UNTOUCHABLES** (CIC, 15): Eliot Ness's gangbusters versus Al Capone: an entertaining battle, filled with bullets, blood, thoughtful dialogue from playwright David Mamet, an *Odeon* Steps parody. Director, Brian De Palma. 1987.

**YOUNG EINSTEIN** (Warner, PG): In which young Albert Einstein, son of Tasmanian apple farmers, discovers gravity and rock 'n' roll. Tiresome, determinedly wacky comedy from Australian satirist Yarrow Seaholm. 1988.

GEOFF BROWN

TELEVISION

## Writes and wrongs on cue

ALAN Bennett's new Channel 4 series, *Poetry in Motion*, on six 20th-century poets, got off to an uneasy start. An anonymous lady galloped across a cliff-top while Bennett's unmistakable voice, like Thora Hird playing Lady Blacknell for a North Country rep' in about 1950, intoned one of Thomas Hardy's lesser poems. At that point the production budget must have run out, for we were abruptly transported to a parish hall where, in front of a small but devoted gathering, Bennett began to read as from the pulpit.

Hovering dangerously close to the kind of academic parody the presenter himself once wrote for a 1960s series called *On the Margin*, this new series seems to have been designed as a mixture of declamation and gossip, and although Bennett is no Gielgud at the verse-speaking, his footnotes are, as usual, unmissable.

The first Mrs Hardy was apparently fey, vague and mad, but, as Bennett said, it is a thankless life being the wife of an artist: they are always expected to do the buttering-up as well as the washing-up. Then we got a brief glimpse of the second Mrs Hardy (proposed to in a graveyard and shown a preserved tomb before the engagement ring), as well as memories of old Thomas himself, bicycling to a church 20 miles away to deliver sermons, during which his bald head would steam gently in the pulpit.

A man who never liked to be touched, so that he walked in the road to avoid rubbing shoulders,

Hardy perfectly suited one of Bennett's more perceptive asides from his own pulpit: "Before they are anything else at all, if they are any good, most writers are absurd." As both biography and autobiography, that was well worth the full 30 minutes, though I remain hopeful that the series will end with Bennett's recollection of Virginia Woolf winning the *Evening Standard* award for the tallest woman writer of 1926, or George Rylands down from Cambridge to see the Bertins (Irving and Isaiah), and wrestling at Finsbury Park. Twentieth-century literary gossip has no better reader or writer than this one: it is only when Bennett starts reading the verse itself that one misses an actor or two.

Other writers, other memories: BBC 2's *Hidden Ground* took John McGahern back to County Leitrim, where his latest novel is set and was written facing a blank wall, since that is all he has ever wanted to look at while working out of his imagination. An exile of the spirit, who has gone home to a farm he reckons he will never leave until the hearse comes, McGahern rambled around both his land and his theories of displacement, focusing on a period when he was sacked as a local Roman Catholic school-teacher in Dublin, following the publication of a novel which the Church did not admire.

We do not mind your book being banned, they said, but you married a foreign woman in a registry office, and that we can't be having. In Ireland, truth is always

stranger than fiction, especially applied to its fiction writers.

Other writers, other memories again: Jenny Barracough introduced a new series of *Frontiers*, on BBC 1, by taking the South African novelist Nadine Gordimer back to Mozambique where, 25 years ago, she spent her honeymoon. Electrified wires and razor-traps now mark the border, but Gordimer's was a social rather than political study, concentrating on the erstwhile sexual and racial freedom of Mozambique and its contrast to the clenched racist inhibitions of South Africa.

Gordimer's are the eyes of a novelist in search of a story, but here there were so many that the camera found it difficult to focus. Her most intriguing thesis was that Mozambique was the "continent" (as in "popping over to the continent") for a generation of repressed South Africans.

Politically, life is more complex now, but relics of the old Portuguese colonial luxury can still be found amid the ravages of civil war and a collapsed economy. Across this frontier of race and wealth as well as African geography, Gordimer and Barracough found Mozambique a nation where 200,000 children are now orphaned and 1,000 schools and hospitals closed.

South African rebels have made of it a human wasteland, and the national guilt that Gordimer feels is that of the exile who can see, all too clearly, yet one more reason to cry the beloved country.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

FILM BUSINESS

## Widescreen, all-action cliffhanger



Financial kingpins of the MGM deal: Owner Kirk Kerkorian (left), Steve Ross, and Italian financier Giancarlo Parretti (right)

Andrew Lycett on the latest, and possibly the largest, film industry merger, which involves the most famous Hollywood names

If it works, it promises to be one of the most powerful film production and distribution conglomerates in the world. MGM founder, Louis B. Mayer, would probably approve. Today, Pathe Communications, headed by Giancarlo Parretti, a colourful 50-year-old Italian financier who was once a writer at London's Savoy Hotel, is set to complete its take-over of Mayer's Hollywood studio, which has become Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer/United Artists.

Ever since he first announced his \$1.2 billion (£706 million) bid for the studio in March, it has been touch and go whether Parretti would raise the necessary money. He was helped out by Steve Ross, chairman of another media conglomerate — the recently merged Time Warner. Ross agreed to guarantee loans for half the price asked by MGM/UA's billionaire owner, Kirk Kerkorian.

In return, Time Warner gained worldwide distribution rights to the United Artists library of 1,000 films, including *Rain Man*, *The Pink Panther* and Bond movies. Pathe/MGM/UA makes the films, which are distributed by Warner and shown on Time's widespread cable network. That is the sort of media equation appreciated by Wall Street. Even so, Parretti was not helped in his quest for the remaining finance by the four-year prison sentence handed down to him in *absentia* in April, by a Naples court, for fraudulent bankruptcy. An appeal has been lodged. Various dates for the closing of the Pathe offer for MGM/UA shares passed. Today is the last.

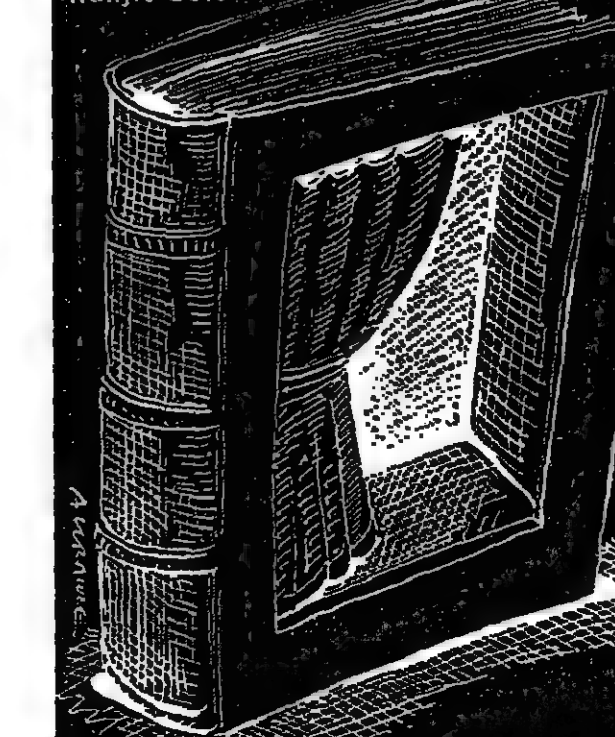
Parretti first came to international attention in 1988 when he bought the ailing Cannon film production and cinema chain from Israeli cousins Menahem Golan and Yoram Globus. He renamed the group Pathe, and moved it to Los Angeles.

From there he set about developing a contemporary worldwide media business. That means owning film production and distribution (television, cable, cinema exhibition) companies. It is no good making films if the maker cannot show them to the public. Parretti entrusted the production side to the respected Alan Ladd.

Initially, with his partner Florio Fiorino, Parretti concentrated his distribution efforts in Europe. Ownership of the old Cannon company gave him access to nearly 400 cinemas in Britain (in all, around 600 in Europe). Some of these he has recently sold to Italian media entrepreneur Silvio Berlusconi, largely to raise money for his MGM/UA bid.

## THE ILLUSION

by Pierre Cornille  
Translated by Ranjit Bole



Cast:  
Steven Beard, Duncan Bell, Dusty Gedge, Rosalind Knight, Sylvester Le Touzel, Phelim McDermott, Virginia Radcliffe, Stuart Richmond, Lee Simpson, Harnage Singh Kallrai, Stan Thomas, Stephen Wale, Timothy Walker

Directed by Richard Jones  
Designed by Nigel Lowery  
Lighting designed by Pat Collins

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## REVIEWS

## Kirov weathers the storms

## DANCE

Kirov Ballet  
Coliseum

WHAT a treat to have the Kirov Ballet back in town for five weeks (with side trips to Manchester and Birmingham, too). The opening production at the Coliseum was *The Corsair* with a cast mainly of soloists who have become firm favourites here.

The management bills this ballet with old-fashioned snobbery in French as *Le Corsaire*, but the English version is preferable, if only as a reminder that the work owes its title, its general ambience and the names of some characters to one of Byron's most popular poems.

Byron, it is true, would not have recognized much of the plot, but it is good, rousing melodrama. In the first few minutes alone we have a shipwreck, a rescue and an abduction, and from there we go straight to a slave market where the heroine and her best friend are the most delectable of the wares on offer.

Luckily our intrepid hero, in heavy disguise, arrives in time to effect her salvation, and then, in case you did not follow the plot the first time around, it all happens over again: another abduction, another rescue, another ship sailing a stormy sea to bring the curtain down amid cheers.

Just where, you may ask, is the famous Kirov classicism amid all these goings-on? Alive and well on the Coliseum stage, because the most outrageous adventures and comic episodes are interspersed with set pieces of pure display dancing, some of them reputedly authentic Petipa, others good pastiche.

## FESTIVAL

Mayfest  
Glasgow

CULTURAL exchanges between Scotland and the Soviet Union go back long before *glasnost*. But at a time when devolution is also firmly on the Scottish political agenda, there is added piquancy about the visits to Glasgow of the Georgians at Mayfest and the Lithuanians in the autumn.

Indeed, a visit to Georgia by *Border Warfare*, John McGrath's epic play about Anglo-Scottish tensions, was abandoned when the Soviets decided it might be too inflammatory to nationalist passions. However, none of the plays from Georgia which provided the backbone of Mayfest's gala programme in its third week proved to be so politically sensitive. Nevertheless, the whole Georgian season—which included three theatre productions, a troupe of singers and a dance company—was a great artistic success, although audiences for the theatre shows were shamefully small.

The Marjanishvili State Academic Theatre, which believes in producing as many Georgian plays as possible, presented *A Provincial*



Members of the Kirov Ballet in a scene from the opening programme, *The Corsair*, at the Coliseum

The most famous of them, widely known nowadays as "The Corsair pas de deux", is, in this context, a dance for three people (with an extra solo throw in). It served last night to introduce to London audiences Alexander Lanyov as Ali, the faithful follower who does almost all the familiar passages of male dancing. Tall, with a buoyant technique and clean style, he danced with a zest and involvement that held their own against some formidable competition.

Altynai Asymuratova, who has become a familiar guest star in London since the Kirov was last

here two years ago, was in exhilarating form as Medora, seeming to relish all the virtuoso demands of her role and acting with perhaps more relaxed ease than before, especially in the scene where she has to move from delicious light comedy in her romantic interlude with Conrad to full-blooded drama as she desperately tries to save his life from mutineers.

No offence to Yevgeny Neff, who portrays a fine figure of a pirates' leader, but the male honours were largely stolen by Konstantin Zaklinsky, in the meatier role of the slave dealer

Lankodem, which he plays with sly comic enjoyment, as well as a nice line in bravura dancing. Among the smaller roles, a special welcome to Larissa Lezhnina, a slender, dimpling blonde not seen here before, whose swift scintillating solo in the trio of Odalisques provided an appetizing foretaste of bigger roles to follow, and to Gennadiy Babanin leading the pirates' dance with immense vigour.

Victor Fedotov conducted the Wren orchestra in a lively account of the hotchpotch score by Adam Delibes and several other hands.

JOHN PERCIVAL

*Story* by Lali Rosocha at the Arches and *Othello* at the Mitchell Theatre. *A Provincial Story*, described as post-Chekhovian, was a piece of grim realism. Set in what looked like a wire cage filled with utility furniture, the play traced a sordid sequence of adultery, drunkenness and petty crime involving Leo, a provincial actor, his wife Nina, her sister Zizi, and Zizi's seducer, Murman.

What makes this gloomy play riveting is the company's acting. It is occasionally over-the-top but there is an intensity and intelligence which silence criticism. The director, Medea Kuchukhidze, has given the play a wonderful simplicity.

The same company and some of the same actors also appeared in *Othello*. Bill Alexander, the Royal Shakespeare Company director, has said that he wishes the British, like the Russians, could use Shakespeare in rough translation, thereby relying on theatrical images rather than the power of Shakespeare's language. The Marjanishvili Company is not constrained by Shakespeare's words but the actors treat the text with a mixture of reverence and insight that is often electrifying.

*Othello* is set below-decks on a ship which is taking the Moor back to Venice. Othello is beaten

by his guards and the events in Cyprus are played out in a delicious flashback. The shipboard set is stunning, a vast wooden hold stretching into what seems like infinity, and the production uses fluorescent light to give the play an unearthly look.

Again, the acting makes the production memorable. The actors veer between full-blown melodrama and subtle whispering, giving a profusion of new readings to lines which can often seem stale. Part of their success lies in their recognition that the main spring for the tragedy comes from sexual passion. It is the role of Desdemona which benefits most from this. She begins the play as a sexually fulfilled woman but ends it bewildered, abused and finally killed by her adored lover.

Our *Meghinushkuni* is a powerful Othello, taking the underlying violence of his *Leo* in *A Provincial Story* to its ultimate conclusion. Mari Janashia is fully rounded as Desdemona and Nodir Megloubishvili a vampire-like Iago. The mixture of 18th-century acting and 1970s-style production, fired by synthesized thriller music, makes Themur Chikheidze's production irresistible.

In contrast to their academic seniors, the Rustaveli Young Theatre Company, in a folk-play

called *The Stepmother*, provided a delightful climax to the Georgian season. The performances of the young cast showed a verve and commitment seldom seen in British drama school productions.

Gizo Zhordania's production is played in a set of huge nursery cupboards. The play tells of a widower who wishes to marry again. His family, frightened for their inheritance, try to find him a woman who is guaranteed to be barren. Inevitably, she gets pregnant and the family fear an horrific revenge, which sours the mood of what, up till then, has been a pacy comedy, moving from peasant village to aristocratic salon with great aplomb. The change of tone, however, is superbly and movingly handled.

The only hint of the dangerous political situation in the Soviet Union came when most of the young Georgians ended their performance by singing their national hymn. They then encouraged the audience to sing the nationalist anthem "Flower of Scotland", which has replaced the National Anthem on Scottish football and rugby terraces. What is the audience being asked to sing now that the company has moved on to Winchester and Bristol?

ALASDAIR CAMERON

## THEATRE

Safe in Our Hands  
West Yorkshire  
Playhouse

THE setting is an English hospital in early winter this year. An uneasy inept administration is beset by cuts and corruption; sick patients get sicker as the most basic facilities are denied them; the nursing staff is under-trained and under-assisted; the doctors, working a continuous 80 hours, are hollow-eyed with exhaustion. Such are the ingredients of a

harrowingly funny farce which opened last week.

Author Andy de la Tour has previous good work to his credit—notably *Here We Go* and *Viva!*—but in this production he has excelled himself.

The play was a winner of a LWT 1989 Plays On Stage award and director Jude Kelly and designer Fran Thompson have done great justice to a script that uses the medium of farce for direct political statement.

This is not a new idea: Dario Fo comes much to mind, but Fo's work is inherently diluted in the UK because of translation, while de la Tour's dialogue is intact and

as incisive as his ritually choreographed, farcically timed entrances and exits.

Indeed, this play may well change the minds of those who have generally not been lovers of farce. It is a form that requires the audience to feel a tension during the will-they-won't-they-notices passages. It is a good deal easier to feel that tension when the issue is not one of misplaced finger but of whether or not misplaced greed and sinful shambles can really lead to the unnecessary amputation of limbs. Here it does, and more than once.

Amid the skillfully convoluted chaos, gutsy performances come

from Willie Ross as a hapless amputee, from Trevor Laird as a would-be subversive, from Dennis Edwards as perhaps the greatest comic yet seen on stage and from Jim Barclay as a jolly policeman with an endearing taste for the gory. Any complaint could only be that the three women in the cast tend to err on the side of hysteria, and that the inclusion of the caricature of the "media-brat" TV producer is unnecessary.

Those things apart, the show is a summer. If the notoriously cautious West End managers are not yet investigating, they should be strongly encouraged to do so.

CAROL SALTER

## NEW RELEASES

**HARD TO KILL** (18): Steven Seagal as a cop emerging from a seven-year coma to avenge himself on his assailants. Cast: Seagal, Debra Ratter, John De Bock. Cannon: Oxford Street (071-636 0310). Cannon: Oxford Street (071-636 0310). Cannon: Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

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TELEVISION & RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY  
TELEVISION CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

BBC 1

- 6.00 Ceebeeb
- 6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Paul Burrell and Fiona Foster 6.55 Regional news and weather
- 9.00 News and weather followed by The Travel Show Guides. A holidaymaker's guide to the Greek island of Crete (r) 9.35 Discovering Birds. Tony Soper takes another look at our feathered friends (r)
- 10.00 News and weather followed by Matchpoint (r)
- 10.25 Children's BBC, introduced by Simon Parkin, begins with Playdays (r)
- 10.50 Cricket: First Test, England versus New Zealand in the first Cornhill Test from Trent Bridge. Includes news and weather at 10.55 and 12.00. 12.55 Regional news and weather
- 1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceebeeb)
- 1.50 Cricket: First Test. Further coverage of the first Cornhill Test between England and New Zealand at Trent Bridge
- 3.50 Rupert narrated by Ray Brooks 3.55 Mervyn Bates. Mark Chatterton tells the story of Peter and the Spy, by Graham Greene (r) 4.00 Laurel and Hardy (r) 4.05 Laurel and Hardy (r) 4.20 New Adventures of Mighty Mouse (r) 4.35 Defenders of the Earth. Cartoon series
- 4.55 Newsround 5.05 Blue Peter. Former Blue Peter presenter Janet Ellis returns to give the results of the



Professor Rubik and his cube (8.00pm)

8.00 Tomorrow's World. Bob Symes goes horse riding and discovers some new innovations to help both horse and rider, including a saddle that adjusts to the size of the horse and slip-on shoes for horses to wear on different surfaces. There is also a report from Hungary about the Prince of Wales's recent meeting with Professor Rubik, inventor of the famous cube

8.20 Russ Abbot. Includes *Milkshake's Revenge*, a tale of untimely death (r). (Ceebeeb). Northern Ireland: Spotlight

- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martin Lewis. Regional news and weather
- 9.30 Crimewatch UK. Nick Ross and Sue Cook present the last in the series which includes reconstructions of the murder of 11-year-old Bridon schoolboy Wayne Taylor, a bank raid in St Helens, Lancashire, and the abduction at gunpoint of a driver who was driven by two men in blacked-out with Northern Ireland accents from Dicksburg, Norfolk, to Theford Forest and tied to a tree. (Ceebeeb)
- 10.15 Question Time. Peter Selous is joined at the Greenwood Theatre by Tom King, Secretary of State for Wales, and the proposed new Minister of the Treasury, Simon Jenkins, editor of *The Times*, and Clive Short MP, Labour's spokesman on social security
- 11.15 Crimewatch UK Update. Nick Ross and Sue Cook report on viewers' responses to tonight's reconstructed crimes. (Ceebeeb)
- 11.25 Cagney and Lacey: Fathers and Daughters. A father apparently commits suicide, but Mary Beth is suspicious and manages to extract a confession from the man's doctor. Then the doctor turns up at the police station claiming that she murdered him after suffering years of sexual abuse. Starring Tyne Daly and Sharon Gless (r)
- 12.15am Cricket: First Test. Richie Benaud introduces highlights from the first day's play between England and New Zealand in the first Cornhill Test match at Trent Bridge
- 12.45 Weather

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am
- 9.25 Chain Letters. Word game 9.55 Thames News and weather
- 10.00 Out of This World. American comedy about a teenager with a father who is an alien
- 10.30 This Morning. Magazine show hosted by Judy Finnigan and Richard Medhurst
- 12.10 The Riddlers (r) 12.20 Home and Away. Australian soap about a couple and their five foster children
- 1.00 News at One with John Suckett. Weather 1.20 Thames News and weather
- 1.30 Daytime Green: The Green Life Guide. Environmental series presented by Dely Barlow and Alastair Macdonald 2.00 A Country Practice. Medical drama set in a rural Australian township
- 2.30 TV Weekly. Anne Diamond looks behind the scenes of independent television 3.00 Connections. Lateral thinking quiz 3.25 Thames News and weather 3.30 Sons and Daughters
- 4.00 Huddy Pig (r)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Art of Landscape. Natural splendour accompanied by soothing music
- 8.20 Business Daily
- 8.30 The Channel 4 Daily
- 9.25 School
- 12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Sue Cameron Business Daily. Business and financial news service
- 1.00 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning
- 2.00 Open View. Leslie Judd reviews two Open College courses - *Firm Start* and *Book-Keeping for the Small Business* (Crackle)
- 2.30 Channel 4 Racing From Epsom. Roughly 80 minutes of live coverage of the St. James's Palace Stakes (2.35), the Stanley Wootton Stakes (3.05), the Hanson Coronation Cup (3.45), and the Seven Seas Stakes (4.15). The race commentator is Graham Gould
- 4.30 Fifteen-to-One. William G. Stewart introduces another 15 contestants vying for a place on the leaderboard
- 5.00 Garibaldi the General. Romanticized dramatization of the life of the Italian hero, starring Franco Nero. Garibaldi finds that his efforts are not appreciated when he is accused of treason
- 6.00 Things To Come. Programme five of the 13-part series taking a look at the future, often with a satirical edge. Presented by Malcolm Bennett and Penny Southgate
- 6.30 Kate & Allie. Sonar and Lovers. A comic look at divorced life. American-style. Also finds more than film developing in the darkness when a young man tries to teach her the finer points of photography. Starring Jane Curtin and Susan Saint James (r)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and
- 7.50 Comment followed by Weather
- 8.00 Opinions: High Stakes Poker. Harold Pinter, who kicked off this series of personal views last week, was a hard act to follow but the Indian writer, Gita Mehta, is soon into her trenchant analysis with a disenchanted view of the way Indian politicians have tried to bribe, bully and manipulate the country's 500 million voters. She

- 4.15 The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin (r) 4.40 Enid Blyton's Castle of Adventure. A dramatic and to the point adventure serial
- 5.10 Brookside
- 5.45 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather 5.55 Thames Help. Jackie Spredy with details of One to One/Gala Day at Levesden Hospital, Watford
- 6.00 Home and Away (r)
- 6.20 Thames News and weather
- 7.00 Emmerdale. (Crackle)
- 7.30 The Bill. Julian Pettit remains Jo. Conrin whose job is to keep New York's Hudson River pollution-free
- 8.00 The Bill. More high quality drama from Sun Hill police station, now refurbished. A brutal mugging leads to an arrest but WDC Martella is worried that she may not have sufficient evidence for a conviction. (Crackle)
- 8.30 This Week: Pornography and Violence. A report on a new campaign against pornography based on the allegation that there is a direct link between pornography and sexual violence against women
- 9.00 LA Law. Sick drama centred on a team of wealthy American lawyers. (Crackle)

- 10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Sandy Gall. Weather 10.30 Thames News and weather
- 10.35 The City Programme. World Britain's entry into the ERM prove to be a straitjacket in a sterling crisis? And Lloyd's of London's summer of litigation and internal dissent
- 11.05 When in Rome. What Rome has to offer those with no interest in football
- 11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H
- 12.30am A Problem Area. Viewers counselled on their personal and emotional problems
- 1.00 Film: You've Got To Live Dangerously (1975) starring Claude Brasseur and Annie Girardot. A tongue-in-cheek French thriller about a private eye who finds himself involved in a complex plot when he's hired to find out whether a young woman is cheating on her older lover. Directed by Claude Makovsky
- 3.00 The Twilight Zone. Time and Teresa Golowicz - a tale of the supernatural
- 3.30 Bedrock. Fairport Convention in concert
- 4.30 America's Top Ten (r)
- 5.00 ITN Morning News with Anne Leathers. Ends at 6.00

offers her theme as a warning to the states of eastern Europe, who must similarly try to foster political democracy in a backward economy. With half the Indian electorate unable to read or write, it is perhaps no wonder that they have been vulnerable to persuasion of both the violent and non-violent kinds. But Gita Mehta sees optimistic signs. The people are refusing to be pressured and are starting to hit back. Personalities, she reckons, are counting for less than issues. Voters, not politicians, have emerged as the true guardians of Indian democracy

8.30 My Two Dads: Friends and Lovers. Forgettable American sitcom about two men bringing up a 12-year-old girl. Tonight Nicole's babysitter becomes the object of Michael's desire



Minister Richardson as Ruth Ellis (8.00pm)

9.00 Film: Dance with a Stranger (1985). Like *Yield to the Night*, shown recently on Channel 4 in tribute to its star Diana Dora, *Dance With a Stranger* is a cinematic version of the case of Ruth Ellis, the last woman to hang in Britain. But with capital punishment now abolished, the contemporary interest of *Dance With a Stranger* lies in its 1980s perspective

on such issues as sex and class. Ellis's shooting of her Irish young lover may have been a crime of passion which stemmed inevitably from their obsessive affair. But Sheagh Delaney's incisive screenplay also has much to say about Ellis as the victim of a hypocritical society which condemned her both as a woman and for failing to attain her lover's upper-class status. Miranda Richardson, in her first big part, skilfully reflects these tensions, which are carefully underlined by Philip Newell's claustrophobic direction. (Crackle)

10.55 Faces of War: Four Hours in My Life. A series of award-winning documentaries on the human face of war is launched with *Orchestra Television's* brilliant reconstruction of the My Lai massacre in Vietnam. The young men of Charlie Company, many still in their teens, were typical American boys-next-door who in March 1968 murdered more than 500 defenceless men, women, children and babies. The film shows how the boys were raped, homes destroyed and burned. The facts did not emerge until 18 months afterwards and the culprits went largely unpunished. Found guilty of 20 murders, Lt William Calley served only three years in prison and was freed on parole. The film relives the incident with survivors from the American and Vietnamese sides, both in their different ways, haunted by their memories of it. (Crackle)

12.10am Suburban. Finger-flicking good coverage of yesterday's FA Cup Suburban World Cup. Watch as the small but perfectly formed teams battle to be world champions. The coverage includes the use of three micro-cameras to provide viewers with a unique angle on the popular table football game (r)

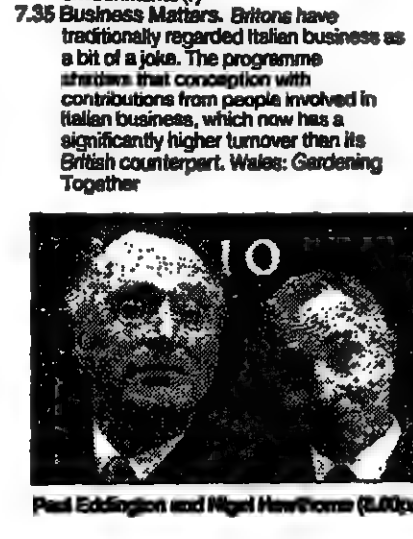
1.10 Zorro: Backlash (1983). Another delicate study of childhood by the Spanish director Victor Erice, who made *The Spirit of the Beehive*. Set in a small farmhouse and nearby village in northern Spain in the 1950s, the film is told in flashback through the eyes of a girl at the ages of 15 and eight, concentrating on memories of her doctor father. The girl is played by two fine child actresses, Licia Poljan and Sonsoles Aranguren. Ends at 2.50

BBC 2

- 6.45 Open University: The Real World. Ends at 7.10
- 8.00 News
- 8.15 Westminster presented by Peter Mayne
- 9.00 Daytime on Two: River pollution 9.25 Weather: estimation strategies 9.40 2000 Years of the Roman Empire: home-ownership on holiday 10.00 Saving the world from drug abuse 10.10 Techniques for learning to spell 10.20 A-level statistics 10.40 Designing textiles 11.10 The story of the Tudor warship, the Mary Rose 11.20 The effect on the environment of the ploughing of the Fens Country 11.40 Three young people's friendship is put to the test 12.03 Working with the elderly and handicapped 12.25 The use of new technology to help traditional industries in the Third World 12.50 Primary school science 1.20 PC Pinkerton 1.25 A look at animal families 1.40 Music for children
- 2.00 News and weather followed by Watch. Cage birds (r) 2.15 Made by Men. Windmills and the part they play in making bread (r)
- 2.30 Everything To Live For? David Jessel examines the pressures on university and college students that can lead to severe depression and, in extreme cases, suicide
- 3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live. Includes Prime Minister's Question Time 3.50 News, regional news and weather
- 4.00 Cricket: First Test. Live coverage of the closing session of the first day's play in the first Test between England and New Zealand from Trent Bridge
- 6.35 Antenna. Three films from earlier editions of the science magazine. In *Nature Bites Back* it is suggested that the way in which our forests are managed causes a rare illness called Lyme Disease. *Walking the*

*Chromosome* follows the race between two scientists who are trying to track down the gene for cystic fibrosis, an inherited disease which affects two million people in Britain alone. *Chromosome* of *Chromosome* the basic assumptions behind the concept of evolution, and argues that instead of survival of the fittest, species survive more by chance than by their relative strength in their environments (r)

7.35 Business Matters. Britons have traditionally regarded Italian business as a bit of a joke. The programme shows that conception with contributions from people involved in Italian business, which now has a significantly higher turnover than its British counterpart. Wales: Gardening Together



Paul Eddington and Nigel Hawthorne (8.00pm)

8.00 Yes, Minister: A Question of Loyalty. There may be nothing fresh to say about this marvellous show but it is worth repeating a couple of basic points that may get overlooked. The first is the immaculate plotting. As *Last of the Summer Wine* has been demonstrating all these years, plots are not essential to situation comedy. But they can greatly enhance it. Part of the joy of *Yes, Minister*, even when

you have seen it before, is following the process by which apparently irreconcilable strands are ultimately resolved. The second point is that a series seemingly rooted in the very British world of Westminster and Whitehall in fact has a universal appeal, unrestricted by time or place. It does not date one whit and is enjoyed by audiences in the most unlikely countries. The moral must be that bureaucracy is the same all over the world. Tonight *Yes, Minister* and *Yes, Humphrey* are due to appear before a select committee, but realize they are not necessarily on the same side

8.30 On the Line. A football team entirely composed of ex-drug addicts, the dangers of the IT Races on the Isle of Man and the proposed new seasonally ruling in soccer are discussed in tonight's edition of the fast-paced sports magazine

9.00 KYTV. Weekly satellite satire which, in tonight's episode, concerns itself with finding a splendor donor for Mr. Reginald Henderson of Sweden. The donor goes via an ice cream van to the hospital while the studio panel discusses their progress

9.30 BBC Design Awards 1990. Muriel Gray introduces the Environment section of the BBC's design awards, which includes the design of the new and the Mount Stand at Lord's Cricket Ground, plus cafes, shopping centres, housing estates and garden mazes

10.10 Buzzer Night. Naturalist Jessica Holt continues her badge watch while Sally Magnusson highlights the many man-made hazards that badgers encounter

10.30 Newsnight presented by Jeremy Paxman

11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine 11.55 Weather

12.00 Open University: Weekend Outlook 12.05am A Suitable Place to Have a Baby. Ends at 12.35

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RADIO 1

- FM Stereo and MW
- 6.00am Gary King 6.30 Simon May 6.55 News 7.00am News 7.15am News 7.30am News 7.45am News 8.00am News 8.15am News 8.30am News 8.45am News 9.00am News 9.15am News 9.30am News 9.45am News 10.00am News 10.15am News 10.30am News 10.45am News 11.00am News 11.15am News 11.30am News 11.45am News 12.00am News 12.15am News 12.30am News 12.45am News 1.00am News 1.15am News 1.30am News 1.45am News 2.00am News 2.15am News 2.30am News 2.45am News 3.00am News 3.15am News 3.30am News 3.45am News 4.00am News 4.15am News 4.30am News 4.45am News 5.00am News 5.15am News 5.30am News 5.45am News 6.00am News 6.15am News 6.30am News 6.45am News 7.00am News 7.15am News 7.30am News 7.45am News 8.00am News 8.15am News 8.30am News 8.45am News 9.00am News 9.15am News 9.30am News 9.45am News 10.00am News 10.15am News 10.30am News 10.45am News 11.00am News 11.15am News 11.30am News 11.45am News 12.00am News 12.15am News 12.30am News 12.45am News 1.00am News 1.15am News 1.30am News 1.45am News 2.00am News 2.15am 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Civil law which allows someone attacked or threatened to take action has already been updated by the 1989 Dangerous Dogs Act. Mr Waddington is, however, planning a revision of the little used Town Police Clauses Act of 1847.

**MATTHEW PARRIS**

Civil law which allows someone attacked or threatened to take action has already been updated by the 1989 Dangerous Dogs Act. Mr Waddington is, however, planning a revision of the little used Town Police Clauses Act of 1847.

Mr Gould said that Labour would "encourage" people to switch from private cars to public transport, but jibbed at the word "restrictions" on private transport to describe Labour's thinking. "We will encourage people by a range of fiscal measures," he said.

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## GPA still flying high with 59% increase

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT  
FINANCIAL EDITOR

GPA Group, the world's biggest aircraft leasing company, continued its phenomenal growth with a 59 per cent rise in profits to \$242 million on 88 per cent higher revenue of \$1.66 billion in the year to end-March.

Mr Tony Ryan, the chairman and chief executive, said the leasing subsidiary had won 20 new airline customers over the year, delivered aircraft to customers at an average rate of more than two per week and placed 148 new aircraft for 1990 and future years.

GPA expects to announce this month a substantial deal to lease aircraft to a Chinese airline, which, Mr Ryan says, is the first use of a full aircraft operating lease in China and "a major breakthrough in an important market."

The unquoted Irish company, based in Shannon but which accounts in dollars, the currency of the aircraft industry, has not paid tax on profits until now. From this year, it must pay 10 per cent.

Earnings per share rose from \$28.2 to \$41.9. Shareholders, which include Mr Ryan with 8 per cent but are mainly financial institutions and airlines in Japan, North America and Europe, receive a \$12 dividend, up from \$8.75. Sir John Harvey-Jones, deputy chairman, said this spring that GPA would probably seek a quotation before the end of 1991. The most recent private share trade, at \$650 per share, valued GPA at \$2.3 billion.

GPA admitted the British & Commonwealth affair could make this more difficult at the moment. "Atlantic Computers has caused some people to tar all leasing companies with the same brush," said a spokesman.

## Ryder attacks irresponsible mortgage advertising

By LINDSAY COOK, FAMILY MONEY EDITOR

THE irresponsible marketing of mortgages by some lenders was criticized by Mr Richard Ryder, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, at the Building Societies Association conference in Brighton yesterday.

He was particularly concerned about low-start or deferred interest loans which appeared to claim some form of "lasting" monthly savings.

He said: "That is, at best, inaccurate and, in some instances, downright misleading, giving lenders a bad name. Lenders should ensure that their advertising fully explains the implications of the size and nature of loans being offered."

"Loans are a major financial commitment. Customers should not be encouraged to take out loans unless they are fully aware of all the consequences."

"There is some way to go before some advertisements reach an acceptable standard. This is a matter of both content and tone in the message conveyed to the borrowers."

"Many advertisements, particularly by brokers, leave too much unexplained and unclear; many do not, for example, make it clear to borrowers that the monthly payment will increase after an initial period."

Mr Ryder said he had passed on Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, recent examples of offending advertisements. He added: "We all know that the worst examples of hard sell come

not from building societies but from some of your competitors. But I have to say the building societies are not entirely blameless. Loans are a major financial commitment — not soap powder. Customers should not be encouraged to take out loans unless they are fully aware of all the consequences."

Mr Mark Boleat, BSA director general, said the housing market was suffering from a big slump because it had gone through a massive boom. He said: "Prices may stop falling, but there is no reason to expect a significant increase in prices for some time, as prices are currently very high in relation to incomes."

"Even if house prices fall by 10 per cent this year compared with last, they will still be high in relation to incomes at the end of the year."

He added that the optimistic scenario was for falling interest rates towards the end of this year and certainly into 1991. This would be coupled with a falling mortgage rate and house prices beginning to show signs of recovery late next year.

Mr Mick Newmarch, chief executive of the Prudential Corporation, said the company had given some consideration to acquiring a building society.

Such a move could "certainly see some advantages in being able to offer our customers short-term savings products as well as satisfying their needs for longer-term savings and investment."

## Profits at Reed rise to £302m

JAMES MORGAN



Davis: profits and payout news makes good reading

REED International, the publisher, raised pre-tax profits from £271.2 million to £302 million in the year to end-March despite difficult conditions in the women's magazines and local newspaper markets in Britain and the American business market (Martin Waller writes).

A final dividend of 9.4p makes a 14p (12p) total. The launch of *Me* magazine took Reed's market share of the weekly women's magazines from 49 per cent to 60 per cent, said Mr Peter Davis,

the chairman and chief executive. During the year, the group spent almost £930 million on acquisitions, most in the US, raising the proportion of profits coming from outside Britain from 34 per cent to almost 40 per cent. The group aims to reach 50 per cent within two years.

Underlying profits growth for the group was about 9 per cent. Businesses bought over the past year contributed £62 million to operating profits.

Tempus, page 25

## JFB profit growth continues with £5.7m

By PHILIP PANGALOS

JOHNSON & Firth Brown, the metals and engineering group, saw a continued advance in pre-tax profits, this time 22 per cent to £5.7 million in the six months to end-March.

Turnover grew 15.3 per cent to £60.2 million, despite the fall in British consumer demand. The aerospace and environmental sectors were particularly strong.

Mr George Hardie, finance director, said: "The advance is down to a lot of hard work and choosing the right direction. We have been driving for more exports." More than 60 per cent of revenues come from exports.

Earnings per share rose 20 per cent to 3p. The dividend rises to 1p (0.8p).

The figures benefited from £264,000 interest receipts, compared with £312,000 payments last time. There was a £132,000 extraordinary loss.

Cutbacks from customers in the telecommunications market affected profits at Thomas Bolton & Johnson, JFB's 50 per cent associated company which supplies copper to the cable industry. Profits from associated companies fell to £677,000 (£866,000).

Mr Hardie said the company's product specialization and international spread of markets had enabled it to avoid the worst effects of the economic slowdown.

After all costs have been finalized and paid, the second-half profit and loss account will benefit by about £2 million, subject to tax.

JFB has about £12 million cash. Part will be used to install additional vacuum induction capacity in the Firth Rixton division to meet rising demand from the aerospace industry.

The shares fell ½p to 59½p.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Japanese firm to help develop Rolls engine

ISHIKAWAJIMA-Harima, a Japanese heavy engineering company, is to help develop a Rolls-Royce jet engine for use on the 300-seater 777 airliner to be developed by Boeing. It has agreed to participate under a 1988 agreement between the two. Rolls-Royce will start developing the engine soon.

The Japanese company also agreed in 1988 to supply Rolls with turbine fins, shafts and other components for the Rolls-designed RB 211 aircraft engines. Meanwhile, Rolls says airlines in China have ordered Rolls-Royce engines to power 13 Boeing 757 aircraft in a deal worth about £80 million.

### ABI Leisure ahead 39%

ABI Leisure Group, the North Humberdale caravan maker that came to the market this year, saw pre-tax profits rise 39 per cent to £2.94 million in the six months to end-February. Turnover advanced 21 per cent to £33.4 million and earnings per share rose 46 per cent to 8.3p. There is no interim dividend, but a final 3.1p is expected. The shares were unchanged at 130p.

### Dealerships for Fitzwillton

FITZWILTON, the Dublin investment group, has made two acquisitions through Keep Trust, its wholly-owned motor distribution business. Keep Trust has bought Runway Motors of Bristol, a Toyota dealership, and the former Henley's Rover operation in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. The combined net assets bought amount to £2.79 million.

### ICM agrees Swiss bid

INTERNATIONAL Colour Management, the computerized colour control systems manufacturer, is recommending a £14.2 million cash bid from Braueri Eichhof, Switzerland's fourth largest brewer. Terms are 124p a share in cash, a premium of 39 per cent to the market price at close of business on June 5, with a variable rate loan note alternative. The Swiss have irrevocable acceptances in respect of 52.6 per cent of ICM's equity. ICM shares closed 28p to 117p on the bid news. Besides its beverage side, Braueri owns Datacolour and Applied Colour Systems which develop and make products for industrial colour data processing.

### Fletcher King falls to £2.1m

FULL-YEAR pre-tax profits at Fletcher King, the surveyor and estate agent, fell 26 per cent from £2.88 million to £2.12 million, despite a 9 per cent rise in turnover to £9.17 million. Mr David Fletcher, the chairman, announced a final dividend of 4.7p, making the total payment 1.6p lower at 3p.

### BAe acquires more of R&T

BALLAST Nedam, British Aerospace's Dutch construction business, has bought another building operation from the receivers of Rush & Tompkins, which collapsed in April. It has bought the Leeds office and plant and equipment for an undisclosed sum. About 20 Rush & Tompkins employees will be offered jobs.

# EARNINGS AND DIVIDEND BETTER THAN FORECAST

Preliminary Results for the year ended 31st March 1990

Turnover and other income £652m

Profit before tax £179m

Pro forma profit before tax £187m

Pro forma earnings per share 43.6p

Dividend per share 10.07p

Extract from the Preliminary Announcement

"The Board of Thames Water Plc has announced preliminary results for the year ended 31 March 1990. The period being reported on includes Thames' first seven months trading as a public limited company. For only the last four of these, the company enjoyed independent status with its own Stock Exchange listing."

"As a result of the changes that have taken place, the results for the year ended 31 March 1990 are not directly comparable with those of the previous year, primarily because of changes in capital structure and the exclusion of National Rivers Authority activities from Thames' results in the year under review. However, the prospectus published at the time of privatisation contained a profit forecast for the year. Thames forecast a profit before tax and extraordinary items of £170 million (£178m on a pro forma basis), and a dividend per share of 9.72p. The profit before tax of £179 million (pro forma £187m) for the year to 31 March 1990 means that Thames has exceeded its forecast by a little more than 5%. The Board of Thames are recommending a dividend of 10.07p reflecting the company's progressive dividend policy."



Thames Water Plc, 14 Cavendish Place, London W1M 9DU

Roy Watts  
Chairman

## Bass's new focus on Holiday Inn

By PHILIP PANGALOS

BASS, the brewing and hotels group, has announced more plans to streamline its Holiday Inn business in North America.

In April, the company said managed hotels were to be run separately from franchised hotels, some satellite manufacturing activities were to be closed, and rationalization of administration would result in more than 600 redundancies.

The rationalization costs are estimated at about \$20 million, with annual cost savings of about \$17 million.

Bass said it will strengthen the Holiday Inn brand by refocusing marketing, training and educational services. The company said the needs of franchisees are being given special attention.

Mr Ian Prosser, the chairman of Bass, said the Holiday Inn hotels chain ran at premiums of 4.8 per cent in occupancy and 20 per cent in room rates over its competitors in the middle-range sector in the first three months of the current year. The sector accounts for about 75 per cent of the hotel trade in the US.

While Holiday Inn will focus on the core brand, it will also exploit worldwide expansion opportunities with its Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza hotels and launch a drive to establish Garden Court Holiday Inn hotels in Europe.

Currently, the group has 1,576 hotels with a total of about 315,000 rooms. Over the next three to five years, Holiday Inn's plans for growth include a further 50,000 rooms worldwide.

There were no surprises at yesterday's group meeting in London. One analyst said: "The business has been milked for three years, but is still in good shape. However, the real benefits from the American Holiday Inns will be about two years down the line."

● Buckingham International, the hotels to nursing homes group controlled by the Jivraj family, is to buy four Crest hotels in Amsterdam from Bass for an undisclosed cash sum.

Some analysts estimate that the value of the deal is close to £20 million. The move follows the sale by Bass of the bulk of its Crest hotels to Trusthouse Forte for £300 million as it concentrates on the Holiday Inns chain. Bass shares eased 30p to £10.70.

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## Microvitec cuts 65 jobs to stem losses

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK

MICROVITEC, the troubled manufacturer of computer colour monitors, has announced 65 redundancies among its support staff as part of a rationalization to save £1 million a year. The redundancies will cut the support staff to 298.

The USM company, which has fallen into trading losses this year after reporting a £488,000 slump in pre-tax profits to £1.27 million for 1989, blamed the "downturn in the electronics and computer peripherals market."

Mr James Bailey, who took over from Mr David Burnett last month as chairman and chief executive, said: "We are determined to reverse the fortunes of Microvitec by slimming it down and making it leaner and meaner. These

actions are necessary to return Microvitec to profit."

He said that Microvitec, which has also strengthened its management with the appointment of two marketing directors, will shortly benefit from reductions in component costs. The company's latest monitor, the Series 9, should also help to boost sales this year.

Mr Alan Melkerson, a former director of Gandalf Technology, becomes the vice-president of sales and marketing in North America, while Mr Robert Adams, formerly Northern Telecom's European vice-president, is to become the sales and marketing director.

Mr Bailey said that no more redundancies are planned "at this stage."

Microvitec's 1989 turnover was £1.27 million, a 15 per cent fall on 1988's £1.46 million. The company's latest monitor, the Series 9, should also help to boost sales this year.

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Mr Bailey said that no more redundancies are planned "at this stage."

## \$200m fund for Europe

A \$200 million fund to provide venture capital to central and eastern Europe was announced by Salomon Brothers, the US securities house.

It is managing the fund on behalf of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, a US government agency, and will include \$150 million raised by bonds placed in the US.

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## US property disposal nets \$30m for Power

POWER Corporation, the property developer based in Dublin, has sold its 40 per cent stake in the Two Rodeo Drive retail site in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, for \$30.5 million in cash, claimed to be the highest price paid per square foot for retail property in the US (Martin Waller writes).

The sale is likely to be followed by a deal which will buy out S&W Berisford, the debt-plagued British com-

modities group which also has 40 per cent. Power has more than doubled the \$14 million it paid last year for its stake with the sale to Kowa-Sogo, part of the Industrial Bank of Japan, at a yield of 5 1/4 per cent.

The 136,000 sq ft development is set for completion in November, after which Berisford and the third partner, a local property developer, will also sell out.

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## Profit taking sends Dow into an early retreat

The latest production figures from Opec and the threat from the Saudis to increase output further give fresh ur-

Wates City of London, the Square Mile specialist, finally succumbed to the downward pull and lost 6p to 180p.

provided part of the finance for Mr Duggan to acquire his stake in Cabra. Mr Rey is still thought to be interested in acquiring a larger stake in

**Matthew Bond**

[illegible]

## 'Slower growth' at LVMH

## Matthew Bond

The BIC said that if the US scheme is implemented, it will discriminate against British and European exporters, the BIC said.

### Armanic: less cheer ahead as growth slows to 15%

Capital investment at LVMH will total Fr1.3 billion, about the same as last year, including a new plant in France for making luxury luggage.

# Ashley cash call for Spanish buy

Dismo operates 85 stores and 89 franchised outlets. It made pre-tax losses of £1.2 million in 1989 on sales of £38.9 million.

## Three firms admit contempt of court in price-fixing case

Sir Gordon is also taking effect to or enforcing not only existing agreements but also any other agreements in contravention of the Restrictive Trade Practices 1976 Act.

## LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

[illegible]

## ALPHA

[illegible]**STOCKS**[illegible]

## WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)
The World (free)	749.3	-0.5	-11.2	-0.1	-5.8	-0.1	-7.2
EAPE	143.0	-0.5	-11.3	-0.2	-5.8	-0.1	-7.2
(free)	1309.1	-0.5	-16.0	0.4	-10.2	-0.2	-12.5
Europe (free)	750.0	0.5	-16.3	-0.5	-10.5	-0.2	-12.2
(free)	184.3	0.9	-1.4	-0.1	-0.5	0.3	0.0
North America (free)	131.1	-0.9	-1.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	2.9
North America (free)	530.3	0.4	-1.4	-0.1	3.1	-0.1	3.0
Nordic	1580.2	-0.6	2.2	-0.6	4.9	-0.2	6.8
(free)	252.1	-0.7	7.2	-0.7	9.9	-0.3	12.0
Pacific	3007.3	-0.2	-24.2	0.0	-16.3	0.1	-20.8
Far East	4361.2	-0.3	-24.8	0.0	-16.7	0.1	-21.3
Australia	306.8	0.7	-11.7	0.5	-5.6	1.1	-7.7
Austria	1807.9	0.4	-2.3	0.3	25.9	0.8	27.9
Belgium	906.1	-0.2	-7.8	-0.2	-5.8	0.2	-3.6
Canada	521.6	-0.1	-13.1	0.0	-8.2	0.2	-9.2
Denmark	1358.9	0.1	1.7	0.0	3.2	0.5	6.3
Finland	98.5	-0.1	-14.6	-0.2	-12.7	0.2	-10.6
(free)	139.2	-0.2	-6.6	-0.3	-4.5	0.1	-2.4
France	794.8	-1.0	-1.7	-1.0	1.2	-0.6	2.7
Germany	915.6	-1.3	-0.2	-1.3	4.1	-0.9	4.3
Hong Kong	2361.9	-0.3	7.8	0.0	12.3	0.1	12.7
Italy	965.0	0.1	2.5	0.0	5.0	0.4	7.1
Japan	620.9	-0.3	-2.9	0.0	-17.5	0.1	-17.8
Netherlands	871.6	-0.9	-7.8	-1.0	-4.1	-0.6	-3.7
New Zealand	88.0	-1.9	-14.6	-2.3	-8.9	-1.6	-10.8
Norway	1561.3	-0.7	15.9	-0.8	18.8	-0.4	20.8
(free)	269.3	-1.0	15.3	-1.0	18.6	-0.7	20.5
Singapore	1990.7	-0.3	-0.2	0.0	1.4	0.1	4.3
Spain	220.2	-0.2	-7.0	-0.1	-7.2	0.2	-2.8
Sweden	1738.0	-0.9	2.5	-0.9	5.5	-0.6	7.1
(free)	265.2	-1.3	8.9	-1.2	13.1	-0.9	14.8
Switzerland	959.3	-1.2	4.9	-1.5	1.7	-0.9	8.8
(free)	145.1	-1.3	4.0	-1.6	0.8	-1.0	8.8
UK	700.7	-1.0	-2.8	-1.0	-2.8	-0.6	1.5
USA	461.2	-0.4	-0.4	-0.1	-4.1	-0.1	4.1

pany, Smiths Concrete, w

business contempt, and two managers at the time, Peter Hayer, of Smiths, and Anthony Hulse of RMC. They both deny helping their firms to commit contempt.

The Director General's barrister, Mr Stephen Richards, told the court it was "highly probable" further contempt proceedings would be brought.

### RECENT ISSUES

#### EQUITIES

ABJ Leisure (125p)	130
ADG Group (14p)	18 1/2
Admiral Group (100p)	201
Argus Plc	231-2
Asda Global Energy (100p)	91-2
Asda Stores (100p)	85-1
Buchingham Inn	85-1
Canal World New (35p)	48
Centrica (100p)	284-2
Courtauld Textiles	37
Delecta Go New	98
Deutsche Air Tet (100p)	125-2
DFG German	90-1
First Ireland (100p)	91-1
First Planning Ltd	101
German IT	137-1
Henricson Highland (100p)	201
Investment (100p)	131
Meridian Radio	102
Investors	167-1
Process Inc	11
Shelco (100p)	208-2
Shen Select (100p)	
Torrey & Carlisle (155p)	
Venture Inc	
Wig Typ App	

See inside listing for Water shares

### RIGHTS ISSUES

The Director General's case is that in or about March 1932, ...

1983, representatives of the four companies made price-fixing and allocation agreements in respect of supply of ready-mixed concrete in an area around Bicester, Kidlington and Thame in Oxfordshire."

The case, in which a total of 13 barristers are involved, is expected to last about 10 days.

**THE TIMES**

**STOCKWATCH**

**0898 141 141**

● Stockwatch gives instant access to more than 13,000 shares, unit trust and bond prices. The information you require is on the following telephone numbers:

● Stock market comment: General market is on 0898 121220: Company news is on 0898 121221.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York	
Dow Jones	2811.41 (-13.58)*
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	32953.50 (+31.88)
Hang Seng	3172.49 (+13.43)
Sydney: AO	1525.9 (-1.9)
Frankfurt: DAX	1849.02 (-27.67)
Brussels:	
General	6342.54 (-1.73)
Paris: CAC	551.51 (-5.5)
FT-A All-Share	1161.07 (-7.72)
FT-"500"	1271.87 (-7.62)
FT. Gold Mines	202.9 (+4.3)
FT. Fixed Interest	87.56 (-0.16)
FT. Govt Secs	79.61 (-0.55)
SEAD Volume	423.0M
USM (Datastream)	134.14 (+0.10)

\*Denotes latest trading price

## MAJOR CHANGES

<b>ISS:</b>	
Seazer	150½p (+10p)
de La Rue	286p (+12p)
Securicor	775p (+35p)
Strat Group	277½p (+10p)
Trustee Group	332p (+10p)
<b>ILLS:</b>	
IMC Group	680½p (-14p)
Local Telecom	374p (-12p)
Hammerston 'A'	704p (-11p)
Henderson Admin	725p (-10p)
MOI	557½p (-17p)
Preycast	388p (-17p)
Waylor Woodrow	275½p (-12p)
WFP	602½p (-24p)
Wearson	739p (-18p)
Wood Int'l	435p (-15p)
Willard Lyons	506½p (-13p)
Woyds	296½p (-12p)
<b>Issuing prices</b>	

### TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings June 6	Last Dealings June 15	Last Declaration September 6	For Settlement September 17
Call options were taken out on: 5/5/90 Ariva, British Gas, Ganic Gas, Hazwood, Isopad, Narnia, Monument Oil & Gas, Oliver Gas, Pata & Ganic, Anglo Pacific, Ganic Res. West London.			

CRT N/P  
 Disket N/P  
 Ex-Land N/P

Supper N/P	
Luxury Hotel N/P	25
Laports N/P	113 +5
Morgan Cr N/P	35 -4
Petrocon N/P	7 -1

● Calls are charged at

● Calls are charged at 38p per minute (peak) and 25p standard, including VAT.







[illegible][illegible]

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 89.3 (day's range 88.2-90.3).				
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES			OTHER STERLING RATES	
Market rates for June 6				
Range	Close	1 month	3 months	
New York	1.8550-1.5980	1.6975-1.6885	0.95-0.94c	2.81-2.73p
London	1.8751-1.5685	1.5768-1.5695	0.28-0.10c	2.64-2.52p
Amsterdam	1.8700-1.5685	1.5768-1.5695	0.28-0.10c	2.64-2.52p
Brussels	1.87-58.72	1.57-58.58	27-29c	73-75c
Frankfurt	18.8354-1.5685	1.5768-1.5695	47-48c	115-105c
Paris	1.0616-1.0610	1.0645	25-27p	115-105c
Frankfurt	2.2426-2.5592	2.2450-2.5592	11-13p	47-48c
Madrid	249.61-2.5592	2.5493-2.5591	12-13p	47-48c
Madrid	175-47.16	176.09-1.5768	12-13p	47-48c
Milan	5080.00-5098.81	5085.00-5098.81	7-5p	10-11p
10.5095-10.5045	10.5045	10.5045	10-11p	10-11p
9.5827-9.5812	9.5810-8.1512	47-48c	11-13-11p	11-13-11p
Stockholm	10.2700-10.5106	10.2876-10.5108	21-24p	60-50p
Oslo	10.2700-10.5106	10.2876-10.5108	21-24p	60-50p
Vienna	20.0011-20.0844	20.0357-20.0844	41-47p	81-83p
Zurich	2.4048-2.4146	2.4114-2.4146	11-13p	31-34p

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES		OTHER STERLING RATES	
Argentina austral	8427.50-8480.23		
Australian dollar	2.1614-2.1857		
Bahian dollar	0.9151-0.939		
Brazil cruzeiro	26.8264-39.432		
Canadian dollar	0.79-0.79		
Cypriot pound	0.79-0.79		
Danish krone	1.36-1.36		
Greens dracma	227.90-26.51		
Hong Kong dollar	15.1110-15.1110		
Indian rupee	29.20-29.58		
Japanese yen	4.400-4.400		
Korean dollar	14.700-14.800		
Malaysian dollar	2.420-2.420		
Mexican peso	11.85-11.85		
New Zealand dollar	2.8959-2.9091		
Norwegian kroner	1.36-1.36		
Singapore dollar	3.1109-3.1109		
Sri Lanka rupee	6.6512-6.6512		
Taiwan dollar	2.4800-2.4800		
US dollar	1.6175-1.6275		

DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
Ireland	1.5870-1.5885
Singapore	1.2971-1.2970
Switzerland	2.0700-2.0702
Australia	1.2544-1.2541
Canada	0.7128
Sweden	0.6085-0.6103
Norway	0.4875-0.4895
Denmark	6.4292-6.4335
W Germany	1.8875-1.8885
Italy	2.0700-2.0702
Netherlands	1.9500-1.9501
France	6.5589-6.5589
Japan	152.65-152.75
Spain	129.81-130.05
Belgium (Cont)	7.7500-7.7500
Portugal	143.39-148.40
Greece	20.0000-20.0000
Austria	11.85-11.85

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Exel.

<p> <b>CRUDE OIL</b> (continued) (BBL FOB)            Brent Price \$42.00 +05            14 day Jan 42.00 +05            15 day Jul 42.00 +05            WTI Jul 42.00 +05            WTI Jan 42.00 +05         </p> <p> <b>PRODUCTS</b> (Bbl FOB) Spmt.            Spot Oil Price, present delivery            Propane Gas 15.00 +02            Gas Oil 15.00 +02            Non Ht Oil 14.00 +02            Non Ht Gas 14.00 +02            S.S Fuel Oil 50.00 +02            Naphtia 14.00 +02         </p> <p> <b>BITUMEN</b>            GULF Coast Heavy Cramp (\$700)            Jul 80 H 1115-1120 Low Case 1115            Oct 80 H 1105-1105 Low Case 1105            Nov 80 H 1095-1100 Low Case 1095            Apr 91 H 1215-1215 Low Case 1215            Vol 1215 Open Interest 4222         </p>	<p> <b>London Oil Reports</b>            Following another set of bearish S&amp;P's, oil prices were under pressure in Northern Europe's stock covering. All major oil prices fell, the most on the day.            Gasoline weakened on continued bearish sentiment.         </p> <p> <b>CRUDE OIL</b> (continued) (BBL FOB)         </p> <p>           Brent Price \$42.00 +05            14 day Jan 42.00 +05            15 day Jul 42.00 +05            WTI Jul 42.00 +05            WTI Jan 42.00 +05         </p> <p> <b>PRODUCTS</b> (Bbl FOB) Spmt.            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Spot Oil Price, present delivery            Propane Gas 15.00 +02            Gas Oil 15.00 +02            Non Ht Oil 14.00 +02            Non Ht Gas 14.00 +02            S.S Fuel Oil 50.00 +02            Naphtia 14.00 +02         </p> <p> <b>BITUMEN</b>            GULF Coast Heavy Cramp (\$700)            Jul 80 H 1115-1120 Low Case 1115            Oct 80 H 1105-1105 Low Case 1105            Nov 80 H 1095-1100 Low Case 1095            Apr 91 H 1215-1215 Low Case 1215            Vol 1215 Open Interest 4222         </p>	<p> <b>CRUDE OIL</b> (continued) (BBL FOB)         </p> <p>           Brent Price \$42.00 +05            14 day Jan 42.00 +05            15 day Jul 42.00 +05            WTI Jul 42.00 +05            WTI Jan 42.00 +05         </p> <p> <b>PRODUCTS</b> (Bbl FOB) Spmt.            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	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-100 100	3409.0	3420.0		Previous open interest: 2407		Tenure month ECU	98.80	98.80	Previous open interest: 287		
Jun 90	3409.0	3420.0		2407		Jul 90	98.80	98.80	287		
Aug 90	3445.0	3464.0	3433.0	2450.0	1628	US Treasury Bond	98.00	98.00	Previous open interest: 336		
						Oct 90	98.00	98.00	336		
Time Month Starlink				Previous open interest: 125252		Long Gilt	93-01	93-01	Previous open interest: 2557		
Jun 90	95.24	95.81	95.20	95.20	10050	93-02	93-02	93-02	2557		
Time Month Eurodollar				Previous open interest: 40546		German Govt Bond	95.02	95.02	Previous open interest: 2507		
Jun 90	91.72	91.72	91.00	91.72	4728						
Time Month Eurodollar				Previous open interest: 72500							
Jun 90	91.71	91.71	91.71	91.71	4728						
Jun 90	91.71	91.71									

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CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

# Pioneers who are cleaning up

**C**hemical engineering arose from the needs of the oil and chemical industries, which together still employ the largest number of chemical engineers. An analysis of graduates from the Cambridge chemical engineering department between 1987 and 1989 shows that 27 per cent joined the chemical industry, 17 per cent were employed by oil companies, and only 7 per cent studied for higher degrees. The others went into biotechnology — including the traditional areas of food processing and brewing — minerals processing, business, banking and general management.

Chemical engineers fill many roles in processing industries. They research new products and processes and develop their industrial application. They build and commission installations such as oil rigs. New technologies pioneered by chemical engineers include the development of composite materials such as carbon or glass fibres, and the emerging field of biomedical engineering, in which they help to design artificial hearts, for instance.

Controlling environmental pollution is near the top of the agenda. Cleaning up effluents from the oil, chemical and power industries is among the main challenges for the 1990s, and chemical engineers are leading the search for non-polluting, environment-friendly industrial processes. Every issue is watched over by the Institution of Chemical Engineers, a UK-based

The profession produced by industry is also concerned today with saving the environment, David Rudnick writes



Making it work: catalysts are produced at a Shell factory for the oil, gas and chemical industries

professional body with a worldwide membership of nearly 20,000. The institution believes a public relations job needs to be done for chemical engineering, "the least accessible, and therefore most misunderstood, of the major engineering branches".

The institution's president, Robin Paul, who heads chemicals

manufacturers Albright & Wilson, believes his organization's main problem is "public perception of the industry it serves, which does not recognize chemical engineers' contribution to society and is suspicious of the chemical and oil industry as being environmentally threatening".

He says: "This does not strongly

encourage young people to come into chemical engineering, but I want to turn that perception around and show young people interested in this area and wanting to contribute that they can best do so from the inside, through working in the industry."

Mr Paul accepts there is still scope for improving safety stan-

dards, but he is optimistic that the intensification and consequently smaller size of chemical plants coming into operation will "bring intrinsically greater safety since smaller units give a smaller problem if things go wrong".

Safety and environmental issues overlap, of course. Mr Paul describes chemical engineering as "the green discipline that can think out and achieve environmental advances". He adds: "As a businessman I do not like single-issue politics. The institution will have a broad spectrum of passion. Environmental issues are not as simple as they are portrayed. They are not black and white issues."

The institution's general secretary, Dr Trevor Evans, sees the environmental challenge as the prime issue. "Chemical engineering," he says, "can remedy the failings of the past and work for a better future. To ensure that tomorrow's chemical engineers understand their personal responsibility for environmental issues, they form an integral part of our accredited degree course and of the code of ethical conduct we demand from our members."

He too draws a line on environmentalism: "We cannot live on the basis of a Prince Charles organic family routine. If we are to feed the world's growing population, agro-chemicals must be used, and chemical engineering has a major role to play." That role is being played on an increasingly international stage and the institution, Dr Evans says, is adapting.



Trevor Evans: the challenge



Robin Paul: green discipline

"We can no longer work by being solely a qualifying body in the UK," he says. "We must be as international as the people we have as members. The institution's products — its training and education courses, conferences, magazines and journals — must all reflect the best international practices."

"We are the custodians of the profession, but we are a business too, with an annual turnover approaching £4 million. We rely on income from our trading activities as publisher, training agency and provider of courses to pay our staff of 75."

"Only 20 per cent of our revenue comes from membership subscription, and the proportion is still falling."

Dr Evans sees the institution performing a balancing act, ensuring a commercial return on profitable activities to pay for the

inevitable loss-making items such as the schools liaison unit. This programme is intended to stimulate schoolchildren's interest in chemical engineering as a career. It is heavily subsidized by industry, which, like the institution, is concerned at the shortage of qualified chemical engineers in industry.

They are the highest paid in the profession, but their academic salaries are uncompetitive and are being increasingly shored up by industrial fellowships.

As 1992 approaches, the institution is preparing for battle. Mr Paul says: "There will be new European standards and codes of conduct to be met, but integration of chemical engineering across Europe will enhance the effectiveness of the discipline. Society is demanding higher standards, and chemical engineering will have to meet them."

**T**he Institution of Chemical Engineers has an unassuming address in Railway Terrace, Rugby, Warwickshire, but its membership and concerns are world-wide (David Rudnick writes). The institution, formed in 1922 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1957, is a learned society and a qualifying body, keeping members in touch with developments.

Membership is select but hardly narrow. Members may be chartered chemical engineers, or graduates and students on accredited chemical engineering degree courses. They may be incorporated engineers or colleagues from other disciplines. They include design engineers, consultants, general managers, academics, engineers in research and development, and directors of large companies.

To maintain balance be-

tween boardroom and laboratory, the presidency traditionally alternates between industry and academe. The current president, Robin Paul, is deputy chairman and managing director of the chemicals company Albright & Wilson. Last year's president, Professor Geoffrey Hewitt, alternated between the Atomic Energy Authority at Harwell and Imperial College, London, before finally settling at Imperial.

This duality symbolizes the institution's role as a bridge between industry and academe, sometimes with research as common ground. John Moss, the institution's industry liaison manager, stands at the interface. He is

proud of the institution's programme of continuing education, the largest in Europe. Between 140 and 150 postgraduate courses, lasting four to five days, are run on specialist chemical engineering subjects.

The institution's membership has climbed to 19,000, of whom nearly 5,000 are from outside the British Isles. The institution can claim to be the largest chemical engineering body in the world outside North America.

In preparation for 1992, corporate members will be able to register for the title European Engineer (Eur Ing), increasing their chances of working in Europe. The institution has close contact

with the European Federation of Chemical Engineering and participates in its scientific and technical working parties.

Safety and loss — or less euphemistically, accident — prevention concerns chemical engineers everywhere. The institution's *Loss Prevention*

Bulletin is gaining international recognition for its articles and case histories on accidents, near misses and suggestions for avoiding repetitions. A recent issue contained articles on "a gas leakage that taught a valuable lesson", a "near miss incident

with a tanker" due to bad labelling, and "caustic solution splashed into filter's eyes", stressing the importance of a good work permit system.

Use of the term loss prevention reminds companies of the commercial as well as the physical price of inadequate safety. The institution provides the secretariat for the International Process Safety Group, which considers safety "in a closed environment", where companies can freely discuss sensitive matters.

Safety is the business of Fiona Dendy, the technical director. She says the institution has an important role as "a neutral disseminator" of case studies of accidents or

near misses submitted confidentially by companies and published anonymously, after prior peer group review, in the *Loss Prevention Bulletin*.

The emphasis on safety is widely apparent. The loss prevention department produces hazard workshop modules, including two engagingly acronymed *Hazop* (hazard and operability studies) and *Hazan* (hazard analysis), and there are videos, computer simulations and slide modules suitable for training programmes. Recent videos have dealt with liquefied petroleum gas handling and safer piping.

One of the institution's most interesting programmes is the physical properties data service (PPDS), run by Dr

Beryl Edmonds. This is a computer package that provides a guide to the chemical reaction likely to result from mixing two substances. The process consists of running models through a computer to give an answer.

PPDS was developed by the National Engineering Laboratory, but it is being marketed by the institution. Its clients include BP, ICI and other large corporates.

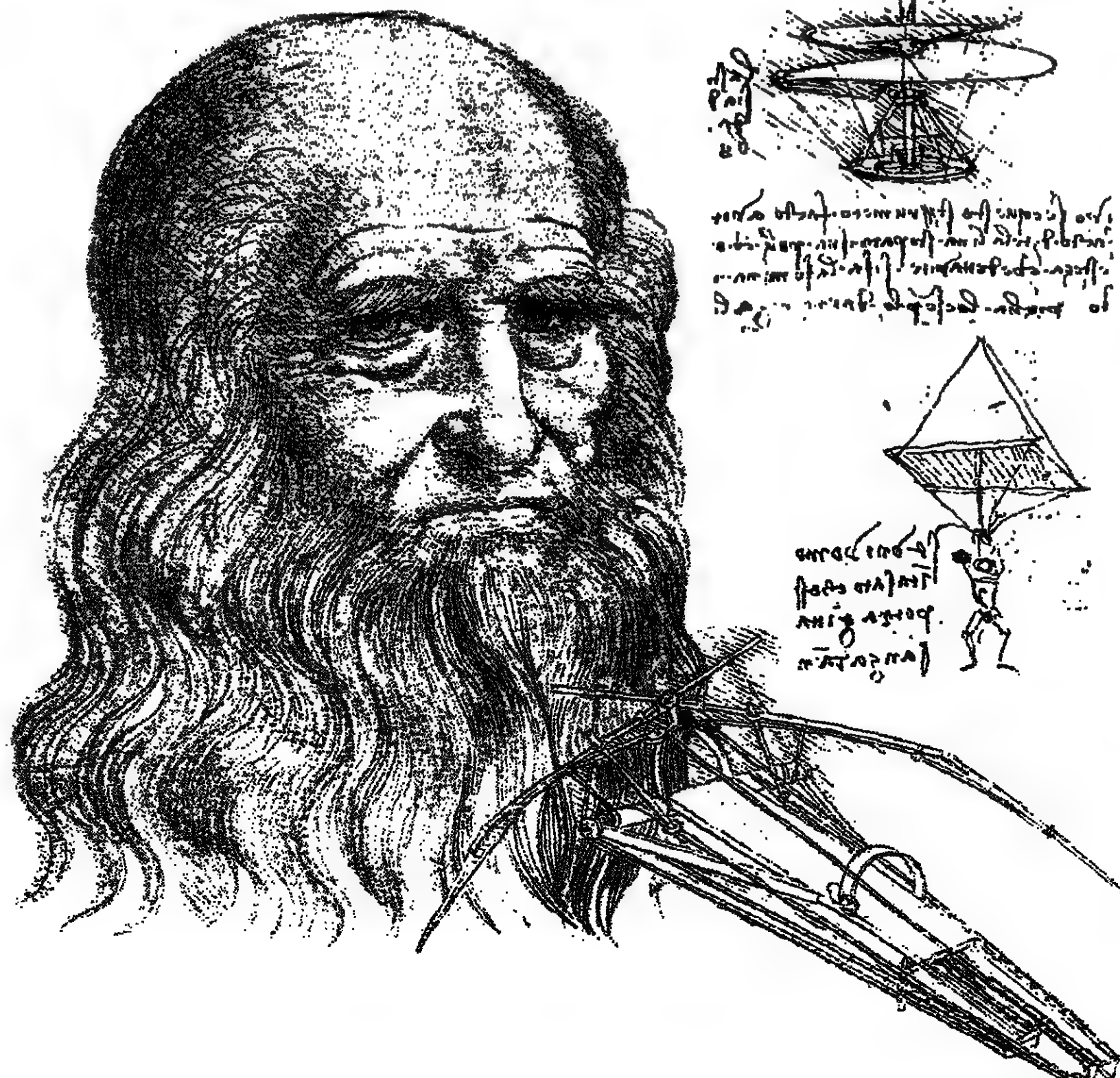
The institution is becoming more commercially aware, attuned to the spirit of the times. It has also become much more image-conscious. It recently adopted a new logo, a formula showing the institution harnessing to chemistry working to the power of engineering.

## Industrialists and academics united



Officials (from left): Hewitt, Edmonds, Dendy

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# On the threshold of a new scientific age

Biochemical engineering, Nick Nuttall writes, holds the promise of environmental improvement and benefits for industries as diverse as medical production and electronics



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AEA TECHNOLOGY

A decision is likely in the next few days on whether Britain is to have an interdisciplinary research centre for biochemical engineering, an emerging field of chemical and process engineering.

The possibility of a national laboratory, to join the handful of other science and engineering laboratories, emphasizes the growing importance of novel organisms and plant and animal cells in the future of everything from pharmaceuticals to pest control.

"We are standing on the threshold of a new age," says Professor Peter Dunnill, of University College London's biochemical engineering department.

As with most developments in chemical and process engineering, there is a demand for promising laboratory developments - in this case, the transferring of part of the genetic code of one organism to give another a novel characteristic - to be mass-produced.

Yet the design and engineering difficulties present enormous technical problems. Traditional pumping, wide temperature variations including reheating and freezing, and the high pressures used in separation can ruin the ability of these organisms or cells to perform as tiny drug or "chemical-producing factories".

Professor Dunnill explains: "If you tinker with an organism, it is often not as strong, or is deprived of a nutrient it needs. If you put the organism into a fermenter,

it can fall to pieces." In addition, proteins produced have the habit of folding. Unfolding them is tough enough in the laboratory but can be enormously difficult on an industrial scale.

Dr George Hill, of Loughborough University, says there are also difficulties in commercially extracting the organism's products, which may be produced internally or externally.

Filtering of air and sterilizing waste products are other challenges to the design of such large-scale plants.

However, according to Professor Dunnill, the possibilities are exciting. The drug thalidomide, produced by a chemical process, caused horrendous defects mainly because of the way it was made. Mirror images, or so-called right-hand and left-hand chemicals, with different biological effects, were unwittingly manufactured. Biochemical engineering, in which flammable solvents are used, offers the possibility of ending this potentially hazardous effect.

To achieve this UCL will start building an advanced centre for biochemical engineering in October, with £1.28 million from ICI, Shell, Smith Kline Beecham, Unilever and the Government.

Dr Hill says one of the other challenges in biochemical engineering will be the designing of processes and better filtration membranes to extract various proteins and products from the same plant.

In Caen, France, scientists at the Grand National Accel-



Burning issue: Sheffield University's Professor Jim Swithenbank and the advanced incinerator, a 30-megawatt unit, on which he and his team are running tests

erator for Heavy Ions (Ganil) have harnessed the micro and sub-microscopic hole-punching power of a cyclotron to develop more precise designer membranes. At Loughborough, in conjunction with the medical school, chemical engineers are trying to discover whether human blood vessel cells are able to sieve

particles from fluids outside the body. The natural membranes promise to clog less and be more selective.

Dr Hill says: "Some biotechnology companies are losing a lot of product because what they are getting out is so valuable that it does not matter at the moment. But this is likely to change."

Even the electronics industry stands to benefit from these developments in biochemical engineering, Professor Dunnill says.

Micro-organisms, in trying to detoxify their environments when flooded with heavy metals, produce natural organic semiconductors as a result.

## Climbing the precipice of discovery

THE ATTEMPT to generate power more efficiently and cleanly has come under close scrutiny. At Sheffield University, Professor Jim Swithenbank, of the chemical engineering and fuel technology department, sits surrounded by printouts detailing computer modelling tests he is running on power stations and power packs to maximize efficiency and minimize pollution (Nick Nuttall writes).

"The ones in front of me," he says, "are of the Sheffield incinerator, a 30-megawatt unit and one of the most successful of its kind in the world."

His team, which includes a young research student who is an amateur climber, are comparing mathematical

models of the incinerator, which burns domestic and commercial waste to heat 10,000 houses and premises in the area, with physical measurements in an effort to improve the process design.

"My research student has been probing for temperatures, concentration levels and pollution as she abseils down the side of the incinerator," Professor Swithenbank says. "We then compare these with our models. We are getting excellent agreement between the two, which shows us the design can be modified to improve efficiency by several per cent."

Sheffield's other projects include studies into mixing water with bitu-

men to make it a convenient source of fuel. The reserves of hydrocarbon in Venezuela alone compare with oil reserves in the rest of the world.

Professor Swithenbank is also particularly excited at the arrival of a Europe-wide scheme called Ercotac - European Research Community on Flow, Turbulence and Combustion, in which chemical engineers and fuel technologists, using advanced computer systems, are linking with test models to improve designs.

Professor Swithenbank believes the spin-offs into other areas of chemical engineering will be enormous. "He says: 'If you can model combustion, you can model more or less every

other chemical engineering process.' A new system, which has been under development by H & G Engineering, of Croydon, Surrey, for four years highlights other developments. Clean Power Generation (CPG) is a patented development of a process in which fossil fuels are turned into a gas by pressurized oxygen, cleaned, then burnt to drive a turbine.

John Griffiths, the company's technology development manager, says the plant, which harnesses proven equipment, can cut sulphur dioxide emissions to a negligible two to three parts a million and oxides of nitrogen to fewer than 10 parts per million.

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### water industry

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### offshore structures

first large lift-installed jacket in the UK North Sea - Shell Kittiwake

### nuclear waste management

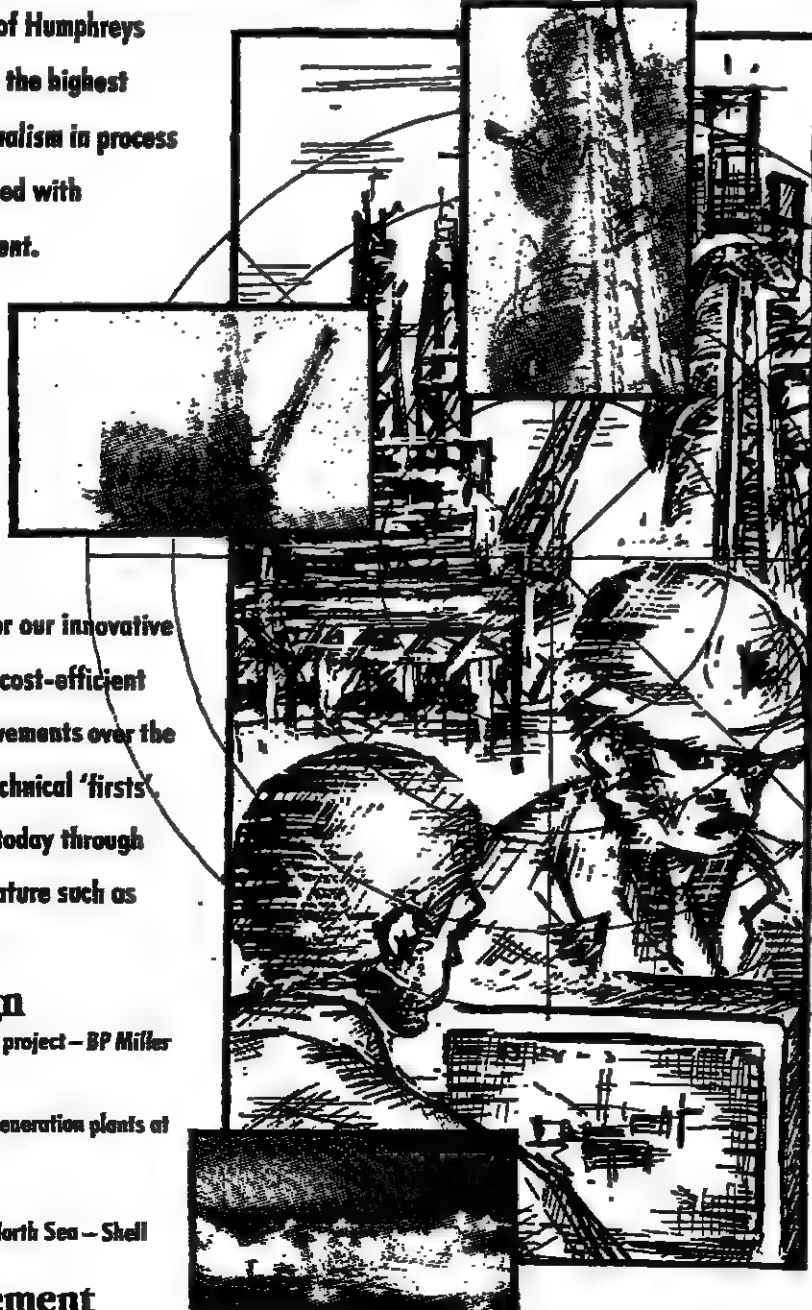
engineering and construction of multi-million pound nuclear waste packaging and encapsulation plant for BNFL at Sellafield

### power generation

Clean Power Generation (CPG) - first British process for low effluent power generation from gasified fuels

### natural gas

first remotely-controlled gas platforms in North Sea - detail design and procurement - BP Amethyst

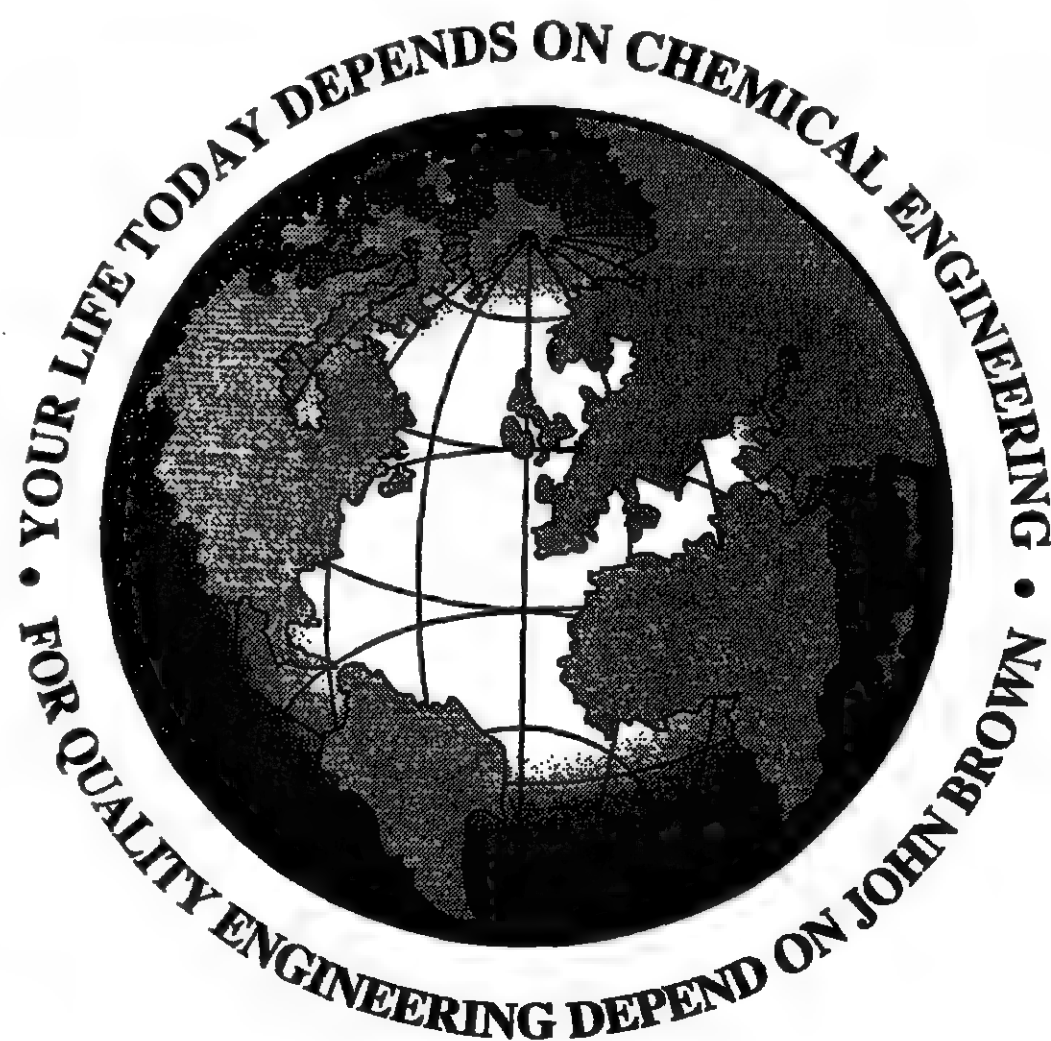


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c age



discovery

AN INDUSTRY'S future depends on the number and quality of its recruits, but chemical engineering faces a severe shortage in the coming decade (David Rudnick writes).

The Institution of Chemical Engineers' general secretary, Dr Trevor Evans, says: "The profession faces the prospect of a 25 per cent decline in school-leavers and potential chemical engineers as a result of demographic change during the same period as industry will be looking to increase their recruitment of new graduate

chemical engineers." Dr Evans sees the problem as long-term. "By the year 2000," he says, "we will have 30 per cent fewer 18-year-olds capable of studying a chemical engineering degree than we do today."

Dr Evans expects that growing industrial concern with the environment is likely to add to demand for "vast armies of chem-

ical engineers in the building and designing of new plants and environmentally secure processes."

The institution is tackling the problem at its source, in schools. Sue Fortunka heads a special schools liaison unit at the institution. She says: "It is not always obvious what a chemical engineer does, so we try to stimulate awareness and excite-

ment among schoolchildren. We want to dispel the image of a hard-hat, greasy profession full of boring people. We are trying to show the varied nature of the job."

The unit is operating on a £100,000 budget this year, supported by industry. Representatives of BP and ICI, the two biggest employers of chemical engineers in Britain, sit on the unit

sub-committee, together with a representative from Esso. Academic is represented by chemical engineering professors from Imperial College and University College London, and from Strathclyde.

The institution puts out a glossy booklet, *Why Chemical Engineering?*, aimed at secondary school teachers and children, and ex-

plaining what chemical engineering is about, including where chemical engineers work, what they study, and — most to the point — how to become one.

The schools liaison unit, to give chemical engineering practical meaning to school children, organizes chemical technology or "bucket chemistry" competitions. The institution's eight regional

branches choose a theme and schools compete to supply the best product. The scheme, pioneered seven years ago in Hull, has proved popular. As an example, pupils have been given rape seed, told to extract the oil and use it to fry an egg.

"Sounds simple," says Mrs Fortunka, "but it is not simple if done on a bucket scale, rather than on a test-tube scale."

The idea is to give children some idea of the scale of chemical engineering.

## Go to work on an egg and recruit them young

## Nylon that changed the world

In a generation, chemical engineering has transformed people's lives

Social workers in Leeds at the turn of the century made a survey of working women. The findings included the curious fact that an average working girl owned two-and-a-half pairs of underwear. "Laughable notion now," says Professor Don Freshwater, formerly of Loughborough University and now of Louisiana State University in the United States.

But this intimate area of clothing highlights how, in only a generation, chemical engineering and the process industries have transformed people's lives, he says. Man-made fibres, from Courtauld's viscous rayon spun from wood-pulp cellulose to Dupont's nylon discovered as the petroleum industry emerged in the late 1930s, have made clothes cheaper and more affordable, and industrially produced fertilizers and pesticides have made it possible to feed the world's increasing population.

The discovery and subsequent wide-scale manufacture of drugs, including aspirin, penicillin and, more recently, specialist pharmaceuticals, have boosted the quality of life.

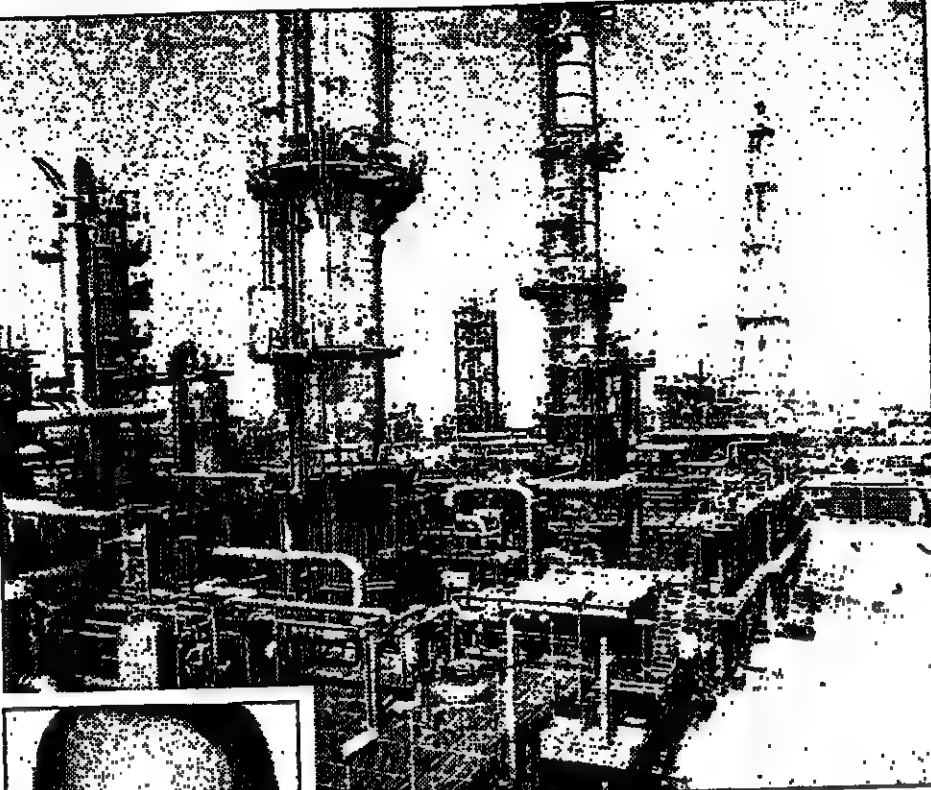
Plastics, from ICI's polyethylene to polyurethane foams and thermoplastics, have transformed everything

from wrapping for conserving foods to lightweight materials for the building and transport industries.

The design and development of power stations, whether nuclear, coal gas or oil, have made modern living comfortable. Professor Freshwater says the tenacity and vision of one Briton laid the cornerstone philosophy for what was to become chemical engineering and the process industry. George E. Davis's *A Handbook of Chemical Engineering*, published in 1901, described how scientific breakthroughs in the laboratory can be applied to industry.

Mr Davis, appointed an inspector under the 1873 Alkali and Chemical Act, understood the fundamental rule that "no matter what the process or chemical being made, the process can be split into a basic series of operations". Professor Freshwater argues: "This was a tremendous step forward. It generalized the whole approach to chemical technology and laid the foundation for the industry to expand in a way hitherto not possible."

It required a Fleming to discover penicillin and a Carruthers at Dupont to realize the possibility of certain carbon chains from petroleum for making nylon.



Acetic production: BP's acetyls plant at Hull. Left: John Cox, of the Chemical Industries Association

enzymes have fallen into the chemical engineer's tool kit to speed up reactions and create substances under conditions that might otherwise require complex chemical reactions or extraordinary temperatures.

At the same time the chemical engineer has been challenged constantly by the need to ensure that the social costs of vast chemical plants and processes, fraught with potentially hazardous consequences for workers and the environment, are minimized.

The growing amount of European Commission and government legislation on the environment will keep Britain's chemical engineers busy. This view is supported by the Chemical Industries Association (CIA) in its publication, *The Way Ahead*, its programme, "Responsible Care",

and its promotion of quality assurance under the British Standard BS 5750.

John Cox, the association's director general, says: "What is likely to emerge is a regime in the UK that sets a lead for other countries and which should have a significant impact on thinking across Europe."

What concerns Mr Cox is that though some EC rules offer a challenge to chemical engineers and the industry, rules on biotechnology may inhibit promising developments by restricting their use.

The association has therefore been fostering links between schools, academic centres and the public to increase awareness of the importance of a healthy chemical industry to modern life.

NICK NUTTALL

## THE CHALLENGE OF THE 1990's

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JOHN BROWN



# Business invests, education delivers

Most university departments depend on the cash they receive from their industrial sponsors. David Rudnick describes the benefits of co-operation

Links between chemical industry companies and higher education are increasing. More companies are seeing the value of using the resources of academe for research, and universities and polytechnics are under mounting pressure to do "rele-

vant" research, as traditional funding diminishes.

Companies are also awarding fellowships, to help bridge the growing pay gap between academe and industry. Most of the research projects at Cambridge's chemical engineering department have an industrial link. The research sponsors include Alcan, BASF, British Gas, British Oxygen, BP, Conoco, Glaxo, ICI, Mobil, Pfizer, Shell and Unilever. Additionally, some of the academic staff hold fellowships donated through the Esso Centenary Award or an ICI Fellowship.

The department owes its existence to an endowment from Shell. Although students are not obliged to do practical training in industry, most choose to do so during vacations. John Davidson, Shell Professor of chemical engineering, says most of his staff spend at least one summer vacation working in industry. At London's Imperial

College more than 100 chemical engineering students are sponsored by industry, and nearly all spend at least one summer vacation in industry. Representatives of the sponsoring companies are on a joint industry academic board, overseeing the chemical engineering course.

At University College London, Malcolm Lilly, professor of chemical engineering, says: "There are very few UK companies with whom we are not linked. One staff member has an Esso Fellowship, another an ICI Fellowship. Salaries for young academics are so low that these awards are necessary."

At Manchester University's Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST), the chemical engineering department derives 40 per cent of its income from non-UGC funding, and its research and contract income amounts to £1 million a year. Loughborough University's chemi-

cal engineering department gives a similar figure for its research contracts.

The chemical engineering department of London's South Bank Polytechnic is researching safety and loss prevention with £1 million of external funding from, among others, AEA Technology, the Health and Safety Executive, ICI and Shell.

Some departments are starting to offer undergraduate courses that include non-technical subjects intended to help science graduates meet the commercial challenge of a unified European market. At UMIST, for example, students can combine chemical engineering with French or German, or environmental technology and biotechnology.

At the South Bank Polytechnic the departments of chemical engineering and business finance have introduced a course combining

process technology and management studies.

Industry is taking an increasingly hands-on approach to the links. For two years BP has had liaison officers working alongside 12 university departments, including UMIST, Loughborough and Imperial College.

ICI, wishing to prevent a feared collapse of chemical engineering teaching and research in universities, has launched a scheme offering up to £5,000 a year for five years to two or three young academics to supplement their salary and persuade them to stay in teaching and research.

The cliché of cloistered academe disdainfully confronting vulgar businessmen has less validity in chemical engineering than in almost any other discipline. The academics are often former industrial executives and the business community benefits from the transference of creative academic intellect.

## Leaders in the money league

CHEMICAL engineers are Britain's highest-paid professional engineers, the latest Institution of Chemical Engineers survey reports. The average chartered chemical engineer's salary has risen 22 per cent since the 1988 survey, from £22,000 to £26,900 (David Rudnick writes). Average UK earnings have risen 18.9 per cent since 1988.

Market forces are the explanation. Engineers under 25 are particularly in demand; their median salaries have jumped 28 per cent, from £10,400 to £13,340. The median salary for a chartered chemical engineer aged between 25 and 29 is now £19,600, and the equivalent non-chartered person receives only £16,900.

The institution says there are continuing shortages of chemical engineers, and it expects the imbalance between supply and demand to grow. The general secretary, Dr Trevor Evans, says: "The institution expects a widening of the pay differential throughout the 1990s as demographic changes begin to bite and European recruiters cast their eye on Britain."

He says the top 10 per cent of chemical engineers can expect median salaries this year of £43,700, a 27 per cent increase over 1988. The top 6 per cent already earn more than £50,000, according to the survey.

However, Peter Davidson, ICI Engineering's process group manager, is worried about the disparity between academic and industrial salaries. "Of late, this has become substantial," he says.

A Science and Engineering Research Council inquiry shows that the salaries of lecturers and assistant lecturers are on average £2,500 a year less than those paid to their industry counterparts. The fear is that there will soon be a serious shortage of academic chemical engineers.

The problem is being tackled with industrial fellowship schemes to supplement young academics' salaries, while making them part of the industry-wide research effort.

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## The woman's place

WHY is chemical engineering so attractive to women? The proportion of women undergraduates in the discipline is higher, and growing faster than in any other branch of engineering. In 1980, only 8 per cent of chemical engineering undergraduates were female. Today the figure is 26 per cent.

The Institution of Chemical Engineers attributes the influx to recruitment efforts by chemical engineering departments. Bradford, for example, runs a summer school exclusively for girls. The institution itself has been trying to change the image of engineering as exclusively a man's world. The institution believes industry should adopt employment practices more geared to women's needs as a pre-requisite to any significant increase in female engineers.

The institution's general secretary, Dr Trevor Evans, says: "Industry must make sure that when these young women engineers graduate, they receive the same rewards, status and opportunities to reach the highest levels of management that their male colleagues would normally enjoy." He insists that because a 25 per cent drop in the number of school-leavers is likely in the 1990s, the

number of women in the profession must be increased.

The institution recently admitted its first elected woman member, Anita Meldrum, to its governing council. Mrs Meldrum works in executive recruitment and specializes in schools liaison for the institution, coxing pupils, especially girls, into engineering.



Anita Meldrum

Two more women have since followed her on to the council. Jeanette Smith, of ICI, chairs the institution's northern branch, covering the chemical engineering area of Tyne and Tees-side. Julie Pardoe, an Aston University student, represents the interests of younger female members. If women have an affinity for this branch of engineering, it may be connected to its "life science" image. Dr Evans believes a woman has a right to be proud of being involved in an industry concerned with "green" issues.

Dr Evans says chemistry tends to be better taught to girls than physics or mathematics – possibly another reason for the popularity of chemical engineering. The association with food and pharmaceuticals means, too, that the subject lacks the "dirty rag and spencer" image of many other branches of engineering.

## 1989 INTAKE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING STUDENTS

University	Male	Female	Total	Female percentage
Imperial	28	17	45	38
Birmingham	57	31	88	35
Leeds	17	8	25	32
Imperial	55	23	78	30
Surrey	38	16	54	30
UMIST	40	16	56	29
Newcastle	43	17	60	28
Loughborough	54	20	74	27
Edinburgh	19	7	26	27
Sheffield	22	8	30	27
Bradford	55	19	74	26
Leeds	28	9	38	24
UCL	26	8	34	24
Strathclyde	48	15	64	23
Belfast	23	5	28	18
Exeter	9	2	11	18
Heriot Watt	27	5	32	16
Bath	31	6	37	16
Nottingham	26	3	29	10
Cambridge	28	2	30	7
Totals	676	237	913	26

Oxford and Cambridge figures should be treated with caution as chemical engineering options are not made until after the first year

Polytechnics	Male	Female	Total	Female percentage
South Bank	25	13	38	33
Wates	12	3	15	20
Teesside	46	7	53	13
East London	11	1	12	8
Totals	95	24	119	20

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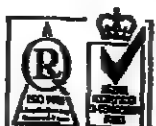
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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

# Learning to live with a poison planet

After public anxieties, special research laboratories are being set up to study the effects on people of food additives, pesticides and industrial chemicals, Pearce Wright reports

The study of poisons is probably the oldest science in the world, traceable back even further than the beginnings of astronomy. Under its modern name, toxicology, the science is emerging as a key science of the next century.

That importance is recognized in plans to establish university-based super science laboratories, or interdisciplinary research centres (IRCs), for studies of vital strategic importance. They include a £10 million IRC in the mechanisms of human toxicity, to be formed from the Medical Research Council's toxicology unit with Leicester University's departments of medicine and biology.

The plan reflects the health and safety anxieties of the public about the growing use of drugs, food additives, pesticides and industrial chemicals.

Although the latest estimates show that more than 70,000 synthetic chemicals are commonly used throughout the world, and that 500 new ones are introduced each year, a reminder that nature's poisons can be more potent than anything man-made came last week when a ban was placed on shellfish taken from Britain's north-east waters that were polluted by toxic algae.

Yet the study of precisely how the natural or man-made poisons harm living cells is a relatively young field of research. The biological action of only a few of the toxins is well understood.

Describing the goal of long-term research in toxicology, Dr Tom Connors, director of the MRC Toxicology Unit at Cambridge, says: "If a mechanism of toxicity for a particular substance is properly understood, the possibility exists of designing an antidote to a poison or an analogue of a potentially useful compound without its hazardous side-effects."

Inevitably, the subject also raises the controversial issue of animal testing. In the past mice were sacrificed in the cause of medical research so that men did not die. Advances in understanding how brain damage might be caused by agents that have come under recent suspicion as neurotoxins, or as carcinogens in occupational and environmental pollutants, are emerging from new techniques of analysis, pioneered at Cambridge, that avoid animal studies.

Dr Connors says: "The new IRC will move research directly into studies of the effects in people of exposure to the myriad of chemical, rather

than extrapolating from results of animal experiments into the likely effects on humans."

The pitfalls confronting the toxicologist are illustrated by the unpredictable and bewildering behaviour of substances in the body, whether accidentally or deliberately swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin.

Dr John Timbrell, senior lecturer in toxicology at the School of Pharmacy, London University, sums up the hazards of toxic substances, saying: "There are no safe drugs; only safe ways of using them."

For instance, a couple of tablets of paracetamol, the successor to the aspirin as the popular painkiller, will dispose quickly of everyday aches and pains. Yet a dose of 22 tablets will take longer to act, and dispose of you permanently after a week with fatal liver damage.

The explanation is based on the existence of two pathways, or biochemical processes, in our body by which it can dispose of paracetamol.

Once the mechanism of paracetamol poisoning was unravelled, biochemists designed an antidote based on a substance called N-acetylcysteine, to be given either orally or intravenously within 10 to 12 hours.

The way the lethal process is triggered in an overdose, creating a by-product that poisons the liver, is described by Dr Timbrell in an *Introduction to Toxicology*, a fascinating non-specialist guide to the mysteries of poisoning; particularly in explaining toxicogenesis, which are reactions after exposure with substances already in the body that then yield a life-threatening by-product.

Some conundrums that face the toxicologist border on the bizarre. An antibiotic called rifampicin, as well as neutralizing bacteria, has been found to speed the absorption

by the body of contraceptive steroids, and is now believed to have resulted in unwanted pregnancies.

That sort of "cocktail" effect is recognized as of increasing importance, particularly in research into the carcinogens, the cancer-causing agents that can be hazards of occupational, environmental, medicinal or dietary origin.

Since most cancer cases, responsible for up to 25 per cent of deaths in industrialized countries, derive from synthetic and natural chemicals, including tobacco smoke, toxicologists are trying to identify the most potent ones and their effects.

The research has a dual purpose, according to Dr Peter Farmer, of the MRC toxicology unit: development of more effective treatments for cancer and the long-term aim of prevention by eliminating exposure to harmful substances.

Poisons injure cells in different ways. Harmful substances such as lead salts, corrosives such as sulphuric acid, solvents such as carbon tetrachloride and the destructive weedkiller paraquat make a direct assault on cell architecture.

More potent ones block by more subtle intervention the body's normal production of essential enzymes, or behave like nerve poisons that prevent the release of the vital chemical messengers of the brain, or neurotransmitters. The botulinum toxin, produced by the bacterium *clostridium botulinum*, is the most potent poison known. Less than one microgram is lethal. It binds irreversibly to the end of nerve fibres and blocks the release of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine.

A third type of injury is toxicogenesis, and the sort of reactions that snake venoms precipitate by combining with other substances already present. Methanol poisoning

is another. Antigenic reactions form a fourth class of poisoning, when substances harmless in themselves stimulate a lethal response by the body's defence system.

The fifth category, and presently the cause of greatest concern, is carcinogenesis. Research into the processes implicated in turning healthy cells into cancerous ones is revealing a frightening number of elaborate and multi-step biochemical processes; some of which may be caused by exposure years before to a minute dose of a carcinogen.

A decisive step toward identifying the most hazardous molecules, and how they cause damage at levels which previously have been impossible to measure accurately, has been taken by Dr Farmer's group. The group's new method is known as molecular dosimetry, which measures the effects of exposure to small numbers of molecules of a suspect compound.

The procedure depends on a development called GC-MS, or gas chromatography-mass spectrometry, in which the scientists have refined and combined two of the most advanced techniques for fingerprinting complex substances in mixtures. The technique is based on a unique British instrument invented by VG Analytical.

Dr Farmer says: "We are all walking around with a lot of evidence in our body that tells the history of our exposure to carcinogens from work, the environment or our diets."

Much of the evidence is in the form of abnormal protein

### SIGHTS OF CANCER ATTACK

### FINDING THE DAMAGE

#### NEW SCREENING METHOD

A new method of molecular dosimetry for screening individual human cells, by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry selected ion recording or GC-MS-SIR, shows the precise exposure at which damage can start from concentrations measured in parts per trillion.

1 In trials, human blood cells are used to "fingerprint" damage from exposure to ethylene oxide, a component of car exhausts, cigarette smoke or industrial sites. Other tests are screening cells from placenta, liver and lung tissue.

2 First, elaborate laboratory processes taking three days are done to obtain pure extracts of DNA and other protein blood products for analysis.

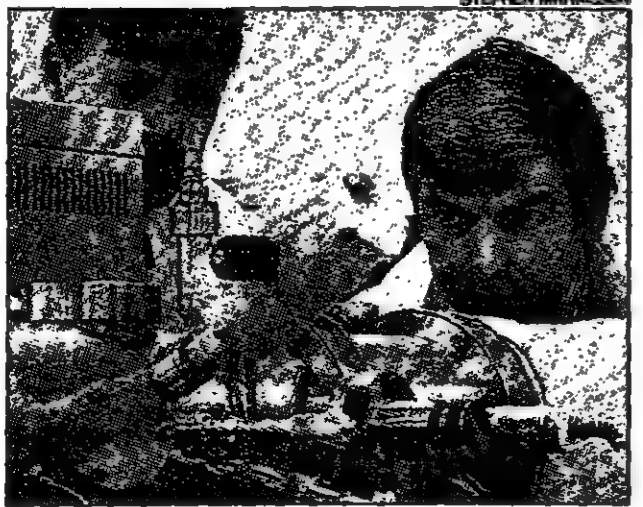
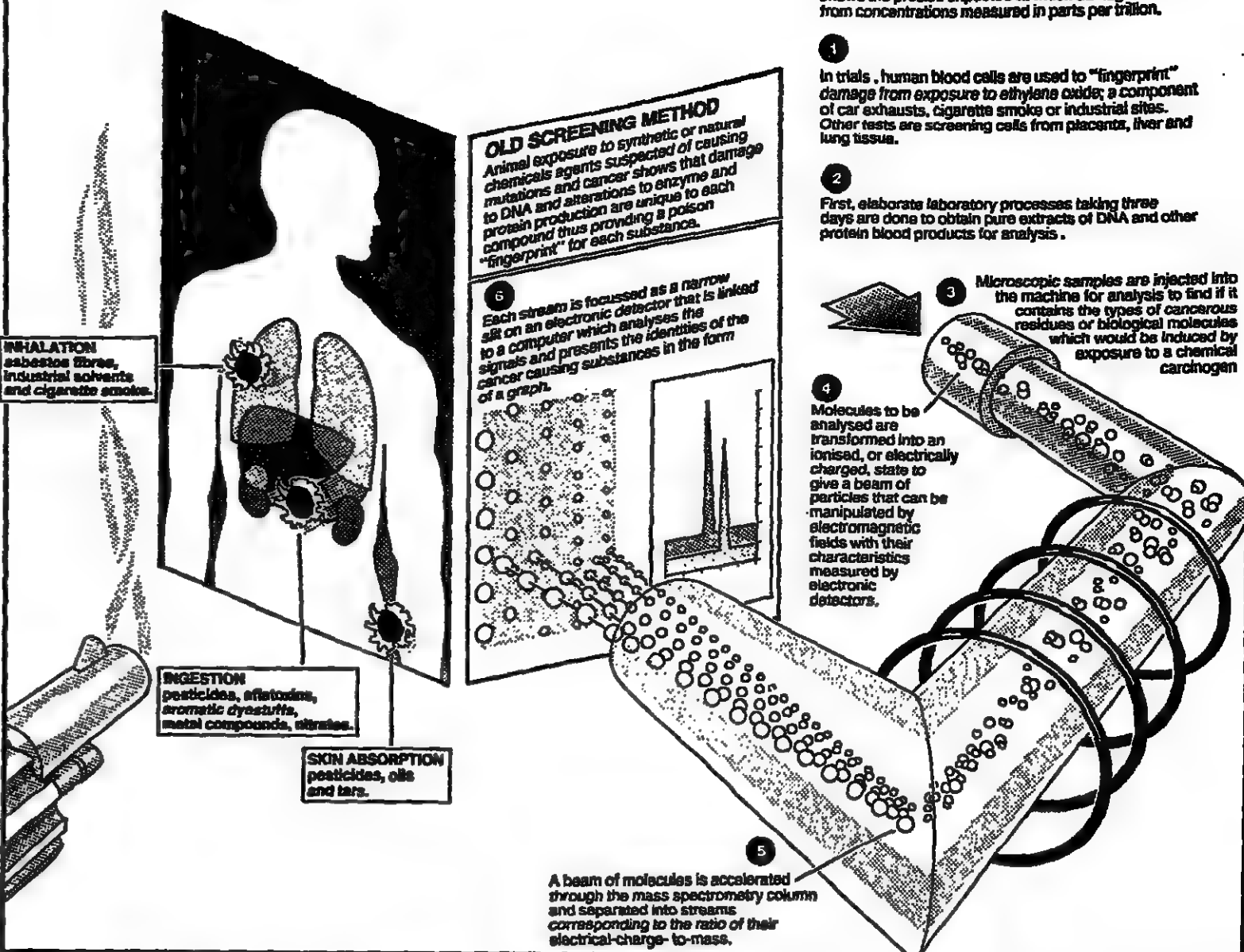
3 Microscopic samples are injected into the machine for analysis to find if it contains the types of cancerous residues or biological molecules which would be induced by exposure to a chemical carcinogen.

4 Molecules to be analysed are transformed into an ionised, or electrically charged, state to give a beam of particles that can be manipulated by electromagnetic fields with their characteristics measured by electronic detectors.

**OLD SCREENING METHOD**  
Animal exposure to synthetic or natural chemicals agents suspected of causing mutations and cancer shows that damage to DNA and alterations to enzyme and protein production are unique to each compound thus providing a "fingerprint" for each substance.

5 Each stream is focussed as a narrow slit on an electronic detector that is linked to a computer which analyses the signals and presents the identities of the cancer-causing substances in the form of a graph.

A beam of molecules is accelerated through the mass spectrometry column and separated into streams corresponding to the ratio of their electrical-charge-to-mass.



Dr Peter Farmer (right) at the MRC toxicology unit

## Search for a space thumbprint

TO SAY that the Universe contains galaxies and is expanding is to sum up in a sentence most of the incontrovertible facts of cosmology. Cosmological data - the exact rate of expansion, the precise distribution of billions of galaxies across the whole sky, the locations of the faintest and most distant celestial objects - are hard to come by, which gives little firm ground to build cosmological theories upon.

But in today's *Nature* magazine, Dr Edmund Bertschinger, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, along with two colleagues, explains in the how experiments now in the offing will be able to test what is probably the fundamental assumption in cosmology - that gravity is what makes the Universe look the way it does.

In the early days of the expanding Universe, so standard thinking goes, there was a little bit more material in some places than others; the excess gravity of these denser places attracted more material to them and gradually galaxies formed out of the material that clumped together.

Scientists are to test the fundamental assumption in cosmology that gravity makes the Universe look the way it does

Making this vague scheme more exact - in other words, turning it into a scientific theory amenable to testing - is not easy, but progress has been made in pinning down some of the details.

An important point is that if galaxies really came from lumpsiness in the early Universe, the lumps should also show up in the cosmic microwave background - the echo of the Big Bang.

In the first few thousand years of cosmic history, the Universe was filled with a white-hot mix of light and matter, but now, 10 billion years later, the matter has cooled and congealed into galaxies and the light has been degraded into a ubiquitous background of microwave radiation.

But because the two were at one time intimately coupled, any irregularities in the initial distribution of matter would

unavoidably show up as small place-to-place temperature variations in the modern microwave background.

Unfortunately, this is not quite as good as it sounds. Although there is a precise connection between the original lumpsiness and present-day variations in the background radiation, the process by which the lumpsiness turned into galaxies is so complicated and messy that measurements of the background variations can be at best only a loose constraint on theories of galaxy formation.

Dr Bertschinger, along with Dr Krystof Gorski and Dr Avishai Dekel, proposes a much more direct test, making use of a peculiar structure in the sky which Dr Alan Dressler of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, one of the seven astronomers who discovered it, has called the Great Attractor.

Three years ago, Dr Dressler and his colleagues, surveying the positions and velocities of hundreds of galaxies in the vicinity of the constellation Centaurus, were surprised to discover that their galaxies shared a wholesale motion, of thousands of kilometres per second, towards one point in the sky.

The fact that galaxies are moving around with quite substantial speeds was nothing unusual, but a group of

hundreds of galaxies would normally be expected to contain as many moving in one direction as in any other.

The idea of some unknown Great Attractor tugging galaxies towards it across millions of light years was hard to swallow and more observations were made.

But in the May 1 issue of the *Astrophysical Journal*, Dr Dressler and some of his colleagues published two more papers confirming the reality of the Great Attractor and charting its position in space more exactly than before.

Armed with this more complete set of observations, Dr Bertschinger, Dr Gorski and Dr Dekel realized that the Great Attractor is so big that it should have left its own particular thumbprint on the cosmic microwave background, big enough to be distinct from all the overlapping small variations associated with individual galaxies or clusters.

In their report in *Nature*, they show that experiments now being designed to look for microwave background variations should be able to see the Great Attractor's tell-tale mark. If Dr Bertschinger's argument is correct, the thumbprint must be there.

Dr Bertschinger's proposed test is therefore a test of the underlying principle that gravity is what creates cosmic structure. If the thumbprint is not found, much of the past 20 years' of cosmological theorizing will have to go.

DAVID LINDLEY

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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Microbes save us from methane

**M**ethane should be hitting the headlines. Ten times more potent than carbon dioxide at exacerbating the greenhouse effect, its concentration in the atmosphere is increasing apace.

The threat methane poses to the climate would be worse if it were not for the activities of methane-digesting bacteria.

Since 1800, the concentration of methane has increased by 150 per cent, whereas the carbon dioxide total has climbed just 23 per cent.

Although still only a trace gas, the atmosphere contains 1.7 parts per million of methane, compared with 350 of carbon dioxide. But the concentration of methane, although small, has risen from a level of 0.65 in 200 years.

If the trend of an 0.8 per cent annual rise continues, global warming will be almost twice as rapid as expected from increased carbon dioxide.

Methane comes from rice paddies and from cattle and sheep as a by-product of grass-fermenting bacteria in the animals' stomachs. It is released by the type of slash-and-burn agriculture that is devastating the world's rainforests.

A large amount is exuded from natural sources: peat bogs, swamps and marshes. Estimates of methane output from particular sources are vague. To make matters worse, new sources are constantly being identified. The discovery that insects such as termites produce methane in their guts was a talking point in the Eighties, as was the methane budget of temperate and tundra wetlands.

In 1988, Dr David Lowe, from the Institute of Nuclear Sciences in New Zealand, and colleagues suggested that the burning of fossil fuels

### Bacteria may help to keep rising gas levels under control, Henry Gee reports

added significant amounts of methane to the atmosphere.

New statistics from the Department of the Environment show that 30 per cent of Britain's methane emissions come from cattle and sheep, whereas deep coal mines come a close second, at 29 per cent.

Landfills exude 20 per cent and gas leaks 10 per cent. However, the accuracy of the British inventory is exceptional — inventories are badly needed for agriculture-dependent developing countries.

While the methane that gets into the atmosphere is a net contribution, much less is known about how the natural world regulates it.

"There is more to the methane story than simply the production of methane and its transport to the atmosphere," Dr Gary King, from the Institute of Genetics and Ecology at the University of Aarhus, Denmark, says. "We have to understand both sides of the coin."

From studies of the delicate interplay between oxygen and methane in natural wetland, reported in today's *Nature* magazine, Dr King concludes that up to nine-tenths of the methane produced in wetland may never leave the bog. Methane-digesting bacteria oxidize the gas before it has a chance to escape.

These bacteria are active during the daytime, when photosynthesis by wetland algae increases the oxygen supply. Dr King made the

connection with the finding that wetlands exude methane at night.

Methane in wetlands is a waste product of bacteria called methanogens that live in watery places with abundant organic matter but no oxygen, such as wetlands and the mud of rice paddies.

The methane bubbles out through the stagnant water overlying marshland mud or is transported through plant roots. What happens next is more complicated and depends on the amount of oxygen in the top two millimetres of the mud surface, near the mud-water interface.

In daylight, microscopic green algae at the interface harvest sunlight to gain energy, making oxygen as a by-product. This oxygen is seized by bacteria that use it to oxidize organic matter such as methane, made by the methanogens in the oxygen-free parts of the sediment.

"The bulk of methane production never makes it to the atmosphere," Dr King says. So what we see bubbling up through the mud is the small amount of methane not harvested by the wetland bacteria.

This all changes at night. Without sunlight, algal photosynthesis shuts down and oxygen tension in the sediment plummets to levels that cannot sustain oxidative bacteria. So methane escapes unhindered into the atmosphere.

This sharp contrast between night and day, so dependent on critical oxygen concentrations, can be seen in many chemical systems in natural habitats, Dr King says.

Bacterial trading in nitrates, phosphates, hydrogen sulphide and nitrous oxide — another trace greenhouse gas — all rest on an oxygen debt knife-edge.



Death in the rainforest: tree clearing adds to the methane levels

## Cost of the secrets of energy

THE largest ever scientific collaboration between two countries is being suggested by the United States. Last week it asked the Japanese to invest more than a billion pounds in a project to build a giant superconducting supercollider 25 miles south of Dallas that will cost nearly \$5 billion.

The supercollider, which will require the building of a 54-mile tunnel, will be used to collide electrons and their anti-matter equivalents, positrons, at huge energies around an elliptical course.

During the collisions the combined energies of the electrons and positrons are transformed into short-lived particles of enormous importance to scientists. The supercollider, which is planned

to go into operation in 1998, will be lined with two rings of 10,000 superconducting magnets that will focus the atomic particles into a needle-thin beam.

It is the holy grail of particle physics — an attempt to recreate particles believed to have existed during the first instant after the Universe was born and provide important information on the nature of matter and energy.

In return for such an investment, Henson Moore, deputy secretary of energy and head of a delegation in Tokyo last week, said Japan would get a

management role in the supercollider.

This week the delegation moved on to South Korea and plans to approach European countries later this year.

Europe has its own Large Electron-Positron collider, housed in a 16-mile tunnel near Geneva and run by the European Council for Nuclear Research, which has been in operation since last year. The 14 European countries which contributed the £600 million for its development are unlikely to see much advantage in contributing to the more expensive US collider.

As with many a large project, the cost of the Texas supercollider keeps rising —

Instead, they are likely to want the US to consider investing in European plans for a Large Hadron Collider, which will produce 10 times the energy of the existing CERN accelerator. This is expected to cost a relatively modest £600 million or so and may use newly discovered high-temperature superconductors with the possibility of providing industrial spin-off.

The American supercollider will use the older type of superconductors. As with many a large project, the cost of the Texas supercollider keeps rising —

most recently from \$3.5 billion to the current \$4.7 billion. While the US government is expected to contribute nearly \$3 billion of the cost and Texas more than £500 million, it is hoped other countries will help with the funding. The costs rise as the need for ever higher energies increases in order to continue the search for what some describe as the key to the creation of the Universe.

The merit of the project is a matter of argument both in America and Japan, which has its own plans for a collider. Critics have described the

project as a behemoth, arguing that the potential benefits cannot justify the cost, which may starve smaller projects of funding. It is also an immensely expensive gamble, they say, as it is just possible that little of scientific importance may be discovered. The choice of Texas has also given rise to wry grins about the state that once again must be seen to have the biggest and most expensive version of everything.

But the American delegation hopes an investment by the Japanese may be a way to ease tensions over technology trade between the two countries, although Japanese analysts believe any investment would be on a smaller scale.

MATTHEW MAY

## JOBSCENE

## How to keep your staff at a distance

Britain's first IT teleworking centre will open in Nottingham this month

BRITAIN'S first information technology teleworking centre opens in Nottingham this month with the aim of exploiting the larger staff pool and lower salary costs in the Midlands and North.

Frontline Nottingham, a subsidiary of Frontline Initiative, aims to hire experienced and trained IT staff to telework for South-east companies experiencing difficulties in recruiting staff.

East Midlands Electricity and a local company, the Software Group, have each taken a 10 per cent share, while the Nottingham Polytechnic has taken 5 per cent and is developing links to help its IT students find employment when they graduate.

The potential of teleworking as a possible solution to staff shortages was given a boost by a study from the National Economic Development Office (NEDO) that showed half of Britain's computers are in the South-east, while only a third of the working population live in the region.

The Nottingham business may be the first of many IT teleworking centres; negotiations are under way with investors in Doncaster and Belfast.

"The advantage of teleworking is that you can locate yourself away from the market and where prices are lower," Horace Mitchell, manager of the Frontline Initiative, says. "Staff can be on line to a client's computers or software can be developed on our computers and sent on."

Frontline Nottingham has recruited an initial staff of 10 programmers and 10 information managers and plans to build up to a staff of 150.

"We have managed to recruit a good management team with little effort. Yet I know IT managers in the South-east who have run major recruitment campaigns had no response at all," Mr Mitchell says.

A study by consultancy IT World concluded that more than a third of professional and managerial staff could

work away from the office. A few leading employers in the South-east are now exploring the option. Tesco, Kent County Council, a major bank and Remploy, a manufacturing company which employs disabled staff, have each commissioned studies to see if they could allow staff to telework.

One advantage is that firms can employ people who are unable to commute to a central office, such as disabled people or single parents.

ICL has employed staff on this basis for the past 20 years, although many IT firms allow staff to work from home on an informal basis. British Telecom says it may formalize the process and introduce telework contracts.

FI Group, the IT services company which pioneered the telecommuter model 27 years ago, when it saw the potential to employ women who had left permanent employment to have children, says it now wants to open teleworking centres in the North.

It initially employed most IT staff at home, but more recently has been setting up work centres, mostly in the South-east, to overcome the problems of isolation and space in the home.

Teleworking is also taking off in the United States and many of the largest IT employers are taking the concept to its logical conclusion and beginning to employ staff to work remotely from other countries, where salaries are lower and there is an abundance of skilled staff.

India has attracted many American IT companies and some British firms have been lured. London Underground, the Britannia Building Society and the Port of Felixstowe have recently sent systems-development work offshore.

Yet there are still few UK firms taking advantage of teleworking. One reason given for the slow take-up by employers is that the economic slowdown is leading firms to cut back on staff.

LESLIE TILLEY

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Application forms obtainable from the Personnel Department, Nuclear Electric plc, Barnett Way, Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RS (telephone Gloucester (0452) 652335 (24 hours); should be returned as soon as possible to ensure their receipt well before 15 June 1990. Please mark envelopes "Nuclear Electric Staff in Confidence" and quote Vacancy Reference number GD/N4/89/77.

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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Fly in the ointment

An outbreak of  
screw-worm fly in  
Libya may destroy  
East Africa's  
wildlife, reports  
Andrew Lycett



The killer: never before detected outside the Americas

Thirty-six hours after the larvae of the American screw-worm fly had hatched on a wound on a new-born Friesian calf in Libya, Gary Yates, a British livestock officer working for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), noted they had burrowed "a hole in which you could sink a Havana cigar".

Mr Yates went to North Africa last May, after two Libyan postgraduate students at Liverpool University had shown their professor samples of some unknown larvae which were beginning to afflict cattle and other livestock near Tripoli, the Libyan capital. The entomology department of the British Museum identified them as the American screw-worm fly, or *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, which had never before been found outside the American continent.

The migration of what has been described as "America's most dangerous livestock pest" is now having dramatic political consequences. The United States, where the screw-worm fly was endemic until 30 years ago, is the only country with the technology to combat it.

But Colonel Gaddafi's Libya is still beyond the pale as far as Washington is concerned. President Bush had to pass a special order which will allow US officials to circumvent his country's Trading with the

Enemy Act and ship millions of specially irradiated sterile male screw-worm flies to Libya. Once there, they will be released to mate and so interrupt the breeding cycle of the larvae-laying females.

Two-and-a-half times the size of an ordinary house fly, the blue-green female of the screw-worm species lays her eggs, which grow into larvae, on the moist, exposed parts of animals. Eyes and gaping wounds are particularly vulnerable. Occasionally, as its chilling Latin name implies, the fly also infects humans. In Libya about 2,000 livestock cases and 20 human cases have been reported.

The real danger is that the screw-worm fly could quickly spread in North Africa, the Middle East and even Southern Europe. The fly likes warm, humid conditions and can travel up to 62 miles a day

in search of a new host. Mr Yates, who worked with the British colonial service in Kenya, fears that "it could shoot up the Nile", if it reaches Libya's neighbour, Egypt.

Most at risk are herds of wild animals, which do not have easy access to veterinary care. Until the pest was eradicated, mortality among deer in Texas was as high as 80 per cent. "We could see the decimation of East Africa's wildlife," Mr Yates says.

Pesticides can do a limited job of countering the fly.

Biological control — releasing the sterile males — is much more effective. However, the only centre in the world which rears the irradiated flies is in Mexico. The plant is run by a special US-Mexican Commission and produces up to 250 million flies a week. The Gaddafi connection caused a hold-up since the United States still accuses Libya, which it bombed in April 1986, of being a terrorist state.

Idriss Jazairi, IFAD's Oxford-educated president from Algeria, helped overcome this problem by presenting the

threat to livestock and humans as North African and regional rather than specifically Libyan. President Bush's special order maintains the fiction that the irradiated flies will be sold to a UN agency.

IFAD has taken the lead in identifying the screw-worm problem. It will shortly begin a £1.7 million pilot eradication programme, which will involve four million sterile male flies a week being flown in from Mexico. But formidable practical difficulties remain.

Until now, the flies have only survived in pupae form for up to 17 hours. The journey from Mexico to Tripoli is likely to take longer. New ways of preserving and transporting the flies will have to be found. Once the technology is tried and tested in its new conditions, a full eradication programme, releasing 50-100 million sterile males a week, will be introduced.

This should start by the end of the year and cost £50 million over two years. IFAD notes that the conditions in which the screw-worm flourishes are found in Southern Europe. It hopes this will encourage the European Community to contribute.

It forecasts that if the screw-worm spreads to other coun-

tries, "losses of up to £120 million could be expected annually". Eradication of the fly in the US and Mexico cost upwards of £350 million. David Anderson, the assistant director of the joint US-Mexican Commission for Screw-worm Eradication, has said, rather more apocalyptically, that "there are short moments in time when man's choice of action affects the course of history".

"I believe this is one of those moments. The whole course of African history, and possibly that of the entire eastern hemisphere, is about to be changed," he said.

Quite how the screw-worm fly reached Tripoli is not clear. Dark mutterings of biological warfare, a CIA plot against Colonel Gaddafi, have been heard. But these are unrealistic. As one IFAD official said, "The US pumps hundreds of millions of dollars into agriculture in neighbouring Egypt. Would it have put this at risk to get at Gaddafi?"

Most likely, the pest arrived unwittingly with a cargo of sheep from Uruguay in March 1988. The United States is clearly concerned that the fly has broken out of continental America. It is doing everything it can to expedite the legislative changes necessary to ship the flies to Libya. Meanwhile, the fly's name has subtly changed. The adjective American has been dropped, and the pest is now referred to as the new world screw-worm.

## Looking to the future



PERIODIC breaks and regular eye examinations for those working with visual display terminals have been called for in a directive from the European Community. Terminals introduced after 1993 will have to meet the new EC regulations, with existing equipment being covered from 1997. Britain abstained from a vote on the decision, made by the EC Labour and Social Affairs Council, because it said the scope of the directive was too wide. Portable and laptop computers are excluded from the regulations but only if they are "not in prolonged use at a workstation". Employers will also have to ensure that screens are separate from keyboards and make both parts adjustable.

## BRIEFING

according to two cosmonauts. "If we could have gotten together earlier, we would already have built an international observatory on the moon and we would be flying to Mars right now," Aleksei Leonov, the first man to walk in space, said in Boston last week at the opening of a Soviet space exhibit. Mr Leonov and fellow cosmonaut Valentin Lebedev, who lived in space for 211 days aboard Salyut 7 in 1982, said that, while the superpower competition initially spurred technical achievements, it eventually proved counterproductive. But both men support current discussions between the US and the Soviet Union to launch a joint manned mission to Mars.

## A perfect copy

THE Japanese Government has given 37 Japanese manufacturers the go-ahead to mass produce digital audio-tape (DAT) recorders which can make virtually perfect copies of compact discs. JVC is expected to be first in the Japanese shops with a £400 DAT machine later this month. The new technology has suffered years of delay because of opposition by companies producing CDs concerned about copying and a possible fall in sales of the expensive CD. Most existing DAT decks on sale in Europe and Japan have special devices in them to prevent true digital copies being made by converting digital signals into analogue and back again, losing some of the high quality.

## Platelet prediction

DOCTORS may be better able to predict when someone is at risk of having a second heart attack by using a test that measures the speed with which platelets in the blood clump together. A team led by Dr Mieke Trip, of the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam, studied 149 heart attack survivors and examined the speed with which platelets, important for helping blood to clot, clumped in a test tube. The team reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that patients whose platelets clumped within 10 minutes were 5½ times more likely to die within the next five years than patients whose platelets took longer to clump.

MAN would be flying to Mars today if the Soviet Union and United States had not stalled progress with their secretive space race during the 1960s, according to two cosmonauts.

Matthew May

## Inside a computer's mind

IN A hall at the Computer Museum in Boston, Massachusetts, an Anglo-American team of designers, special effects experts and video-graphic animators are putting the final touches to an audacious educational exhibition of technology.

The display, to be officially unveiled in two weeks, is the world's first walk-through computer — a massive, two-storey working model of a desk-top model blown up 50 times and complete with pulsing lights simulating the flow of data and a giant spinning disc.

The exhibit, which cost £800,000, is the inspiration of Dr Oliver Strimpel, the Boston museum's executive director and former curator for mathematics and computing at London's Science Museum. The designer was Richard Fowler, the head of Britain's National Museum of Photog-

raphy, Film and Television and former senior designer at the Science Museum, where he once produced several highly acclaimed exhibitions, including a full-scale model of a nuclear reactor.

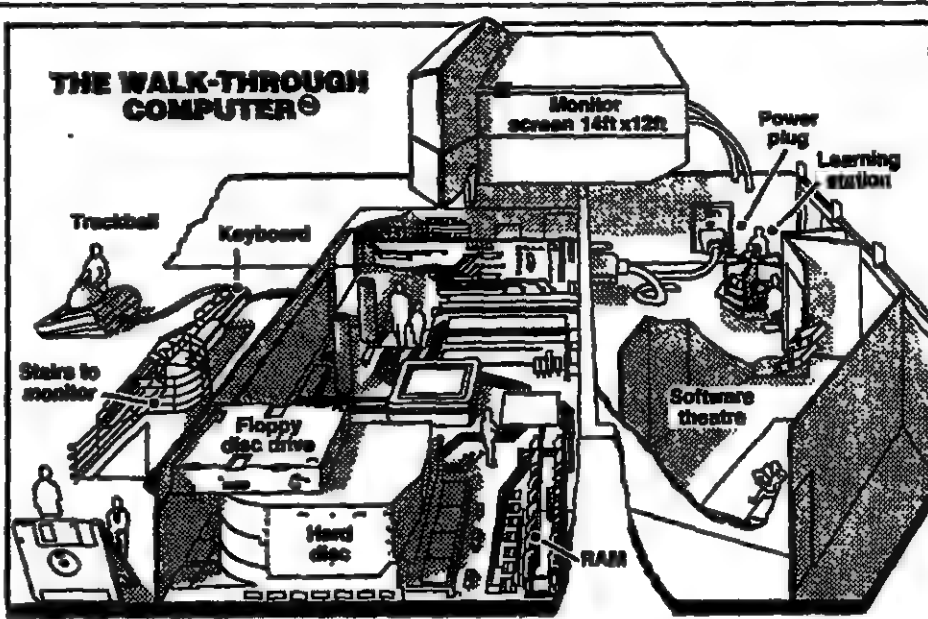
Through combining advanced hardware, software and special effects, the walk-through machine is able to demonstrate how computers process information from the flow of electrons in transistors through the algorithms of a program.

Dr Strimpel, who joined the Boston museum in 1984, believes a giant walk-through exhibit is the most effective method of educating the public to the mysteries of the computer by answering key questions, including how a computer works, how to communicate with a computer, how information is stored, the machine's inner workings and the roles of the

various components. To demonstrate a typical use, the exhibit runs a software program, called World Traveller, that allows visitors to operate the computer to tour the globe.

On arrival in the hall the first sight is of the exhibit's 108 sq ft monitor, 25-ft keyboard and six-foot-high floppy disc. When a 40-inch trackball is pointed at two cities, the computer, with design, equipment and building backed by companies including Digital Equipment, Apple, AT&T and Intel, begins calculating the shortest land route between the two cities. By stepping inside, people can see how the computer processes the data for the program while on the monitor slides are shown of sights along the way.

Designers have installed wall-to-floor video boards showing digital bits changed



into analogue pictures while view ports allow visitors to peer into the micro-processor, random access memory chips and key parts.

A theatre has been included, complete with computer-generated animation by New York cartoonist Dean Winkler and a specially commissioned video by John Palfreman, of the BBC's science programme *Horizon*, who is in the US making a six-part series on the

history of the computer. In many ways, the Boston exhibit highlights how the computer is becoming a feature of mankind's cultural heritage and landscape.

NICK NUTTALL

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No Agencies.

Continued on next page



**MATTHEW MAY**

The four Scottish universities of

New vision: students at King's College watch a lecture by Allan Brown, lecturer in history, being transmitted from University College, London

students to "study the same material and learn from each others' experience and understanding, avoiding many of the problems of learning in isolation encountered in other distance and

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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that I, Melvyn Julian Carter, of Carter, Winstanley, Hargrave & Winstanley, 115 St. Andrew's Place, London EC4A 3DF, have been appointed Liquidator of the above-named Company.

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry undertakes to publish the Insolvency Act 1986.

Dated this 4th day of June 1991.

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# Roseate Tern for Brant encore

By MANDARIN  
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

TWO years ago, the American owner Peter Brant saw his colours carried to victory in the Epsom Coronation Cup at Epsom by Triptych, having paid \$3,400,000 for that fine mare the previous winter at the Alan Clode dispersal sale in the United States.

Now, following that impressive victory in the Jockey Club Stakes at Newmarket a fraction under five weeks ago, Brant must be hopeful of seeing Roseate Tern, another of his expensive purchases, do likewise on the famous downs today.

Roseate Tern became his property last December after he had successfully bid 1,100,000 guineas at the Tattersalls sales.

She had been sent there by her former owner and breeder, Lord Carnarvon, for whom

she had won the Lancashire Oaks and the Yorkshire Oaks, that after finishing third behind Aliysa and Snow Bride in the Epsom fillies' classic.

As a three-year-old Roseate Tern always wore a pair of blinkers when she raced. To dispense with them this season was a brave thing to do but Luca Cumani, who took over her training from Dick Hern after the sale, was thoroughly vindicated.

Last year, Roseate Tern did not look an easy ride on occasions. At Newmarket, though, she could not have raced more sweetly than she did for Luca Cumani.

There was much to like about the way that she quickened her pace to beat the race-fit He De Nisky, who had finished fourth in last year's Derby, a mere half-length behind Cacothies, who is one of Roseate Tern's opponents now.

A strict interpretation of that form, bearing in mind the weight-for-sex allowance, gives Roseate Tern the beating of Cacothies now.

I am bound to say, though, that Cacothies might not have been at his best in last year's Derby because his subsequent effort against Nashwan at Ascot, where Top Class was seven lengths behind, was much more impressive.

Unlike Roseate Tern, Cacothies made a disappointing start to his four-year-old career at Goodwood where he finished only fourth behind Relief Pitcher, Observation Post and Charming, beaten a total of 4½ lengths. At least he will be meeting Observation Post on 9th better terms today. While that will certainly help his cause, a lot of rain would not.

It is rare for equine brothers and sisters to compete against one another. However, Roseate Tern faces a challenge

from her elder half-brother Jbn Bey, who began his campaign by finishing third in the Prix Ganay at Longchamp.

On that occasion he was 2½ lengths behind the second horse, In The Wings, the challenger from Andre Fabre's Chantilly stable this afternoon.

Having once chipped a bone in his knee, In The Wings is likely to welcome some cut in the ground, especially when racing downhill.

Further international flavour is provided by the presence of the crack German four-year-old Mondrian. His limitations were exposed last time out when he finished last in the Prix Jean de Chaudenay at Saint-Cloud.

In the opening event, the Arc Claiming Stakes, Cumani and Dettori can derive confidence by winning with Westgate Rock.

But along with Decet, their

## Roberts has flying start on Sylva Honda

JULIAN HERBERT



Sylva Honda sparks a double for Michael Roberts by landing the Woodcote Stakes

## Eton Lad confirms liking for Epsom's undulations

By GEORGE RAE

ETON Lad yesterday returned to Epsom, the scene of his sole previous triumph, to land a greater prize, the group three Diamond Stakes.

On his earlier visit in April he had made all the running to win the Blue Riband Trial, and the jockey Cash Asmusen again opted to have the colt prominent throughout.

Once Asmusen had Eton Lad racing on the faster ground to the inside rail, the Never So Bold colt soon asserted his authority and was able to hold off the fast-finishing Landover by half a length with Filla Ardross another length and a half away third.

"He is in the Wokingham at Ascot," said Peter Arthur, the winning trainer. "But Michael is not certain he will get the stiffest furlongs there."

"I disagree but, more importantly, he needs some give in the ground. The rain came just in time for us here and the question of him going to Ascot will be decided largely by the weather."

The victory took Roberts to the 32-winners mark for the season, but it was impossible not to sympathise with the runner-up, who has now finished in the first three, but without winning, on each of his last six starts.

However, trainer Clive Brittain will be hoping Sylva Honda has a happier time than on his last visit to the Berkshire course last month when he finished fourth of six to Generous.

"He jumped a path and came home quite badly furred up," Brittain said. "We gave him plenty of swimming and he came here today a fit horse."

"This is a decent horse," Neville Callaghan, the winning trainer, said. "He is in plenty of good races including the Jersey Stakes and the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot."

"We still have some thinking to do though," he continued. "The Jersey Stakes could be a bit short at seven furlongs and the St James's Palace really depends on whether the race

cuts up. But we have lots of alternatives."

Roberts went on to complete a double with Miami Banker in the Night Rider Handicap.

The victory was in total contrast to his win on Sylva Honda, this time coming from well off the pace to beat Joe Sugden by a head.

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## Moon Cactus looks Epsom-bound

HENRY Cecil worked his Epsom Oaks candidate Moon Cactus at Newmarket yesterday, and the filly is now likely to be in the classic line-up on Saturday.

On arrival at Epsom yesterday, Cecil said: "Moon Cactus worked well and there is a good chance she will run, but a final decision will be made by Sheikh Mohammed."

Ladbrokes have temporarily suspended betting on the Oaks until they have a better idea of the field.

Saleh, the winner of the 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket last month, also looks a definite runner at Epsom.

John Dunlop's filly is also entered for Sunday's French equivalent, the Prix de Diane Hermès at Chantilly, and her connections had even taken the precaution of arranging transport from her stable at Arundel to the French course.

But Dunlop said yesterday: "Saleh is 99 per cent certain to run at Epsom. We only need to see what the ground is riding like at Epsom before confirming the decision."

Past Eddery teams up with the Khalid Abdullah-owned filly Houseproud in the Chantilly classic.

Houseproud, the winner of the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches earlier this season, is one of the few horses in the Andre Fabre

yard who has avoided the cough that has virtually halted operations at France's premier stable. De Kieff, a filly from a much smaller operation, that of Myriam Boffet-Badel, and will be partnered by her husband of a month, Alain Badel.

Henry Cecil's filly, a pony-sized filly who won the Lingfield Oaks Trial, could be the sole English representative.

There were 23 fillies left in at yesterday's forfeit stage, but that number will be increased by one today as Daniel Widenstein will supplement Souveraine Bleue, a six-length winner of her only race to date.

## Yesterday's afternoon results

**2nd** **Black Hawk** (C Road, 14-1), **ALSO RAN** 12.50, 13.50, 14.50, 15.50, 16.50, 17.50, 18.50, 19.50, 20.50, 21.50, 22.50, 23.50, 24.50, 25.50, 26.50, 27.50, 28.50, 29.50, 30.50, 31.50, 32.50, 33.50, 34.50, 35.50, 36.50, 37.50, 38.50, 39.50, 40.50, 41.50, 42.50, 43.50, 44.50, 45.50, 46.50, 47.50, 48.50, 49.50, 50.50, 51.50, 52.50, 53.50, 54.50, 55.50, 56.50, 57.50, 58.50, 59.50, 60.50, 61.50, 62.50, 63.50, 64.50, 65.50, 66.50, 67.50, 68.50, 69.50, 70.50, 71.50, 72.50, 73.50, 74.50, 75.50, 76.50, 77.50, 78.50, 79.50, 80.50, 81.50, 82.50, 83.50, 84.50, 85.50, 86.50, 87.50, 88.50, 89.50, 90.50, 91.50, 92.50, 93.50, 94.50, 95.50, 96.50, 97.50, 98.50, 99.50, 100.50, 101.50, 102.50, 103.50, 104.50, 105.50, 106.50, 107.50, 108.50, 109.50, 110.50, 111.50, 112.50, 113.50, 114.50, 115.50, 116.50, 117.50, 118.50, 119.50, 120.50, 121.50, 122.50, 123.50, 124.50, 125.50, 126.50, 127.50, 128.50, 129.50, 130.50, 131.50, 132.50, 133.50, 134.50, 135.50, 136.50, 137.50, 138.50, 139.50, 140.50, 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The Times on the prospects for the Test series against New Zealand which starts at Trent Bridge today

# England's revival under examination

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND last won a Test series at home five years ago. The strife and suffering in the ranks since then make it seem much longer. The public is rightly impatient and will doubtless treat the stunning advances credited to the winter Caribbean tour with a disbelieving scorn if things go wrong over the coming five days at Trent Bridge.

Denigrating New Zealand as a traditional temptation and, even if the England players avoid it when the three-match Cornhill series begins today, the average cricket follower will not expect England to be expected to win and the anticipation may be the heaviest cross they have to bear.

The fact of the matter is that New Zealand are a competent side with a peppering of the highest quality. For a gauge of their ability, look no further than their Test results last winter. They won a series against India and then defeated Australia by nine wickets, the sort of result England were never in a position to contemplate during the indignities of last summer.

Then, of course, England's team was infected with failure and disorientation by constant change. David Gower's apparently charismatic pairing with Ted Dexter was no more than a mirage, for the captain was unimpressive and, as it turned out, unwanted. The so-called fresh start was nothing of the kind and it was not until the West Indian tour party was chosen, with specific aims in mind, that anything altered.

Primary among those aims was ridding the dressing-room of an atmosphere which persistent poor results had engendered. There were various ways of approaching this but Dexter, the chairman of the England committee, and Micky Stewart, his manager, decreed that Ian Botham and David Gower must go. The new captain, Graham Gooch, was not even given the option. Their nominations were scratched before Gooch was allowed his say.

In a sense, it worked, not only because Gooch was able to create his own, highly motivated identity within a side devoid of cynical old legs, but because Gower and Botham determined to prove that this description did not apply to them. How hard it will be for them was reiterated, perhaps consciously, by Stewart yesterday.

"If you come second too many times it does have an adverse effect in the dressing-room," he said. "The good thing from our point of view is that this group has not suffered that."

By way of illustration, only five of today's England side played in the final Test of last summer. Six of New Zealand's 12 survive from their victory, on this ground, four years ago. One of Stewart's favourite catchphrases is "we never look back" and it was easy to imagine this being a theme at last night's team meeting. Since the demise of Gower, the manager has regained the power of speech; Gooch, like Gating before him, is happy for Stewart to handle public relations and yesterday, for the first time, I can recall before a home Test, the England captain was specifically unavailable to the Press.

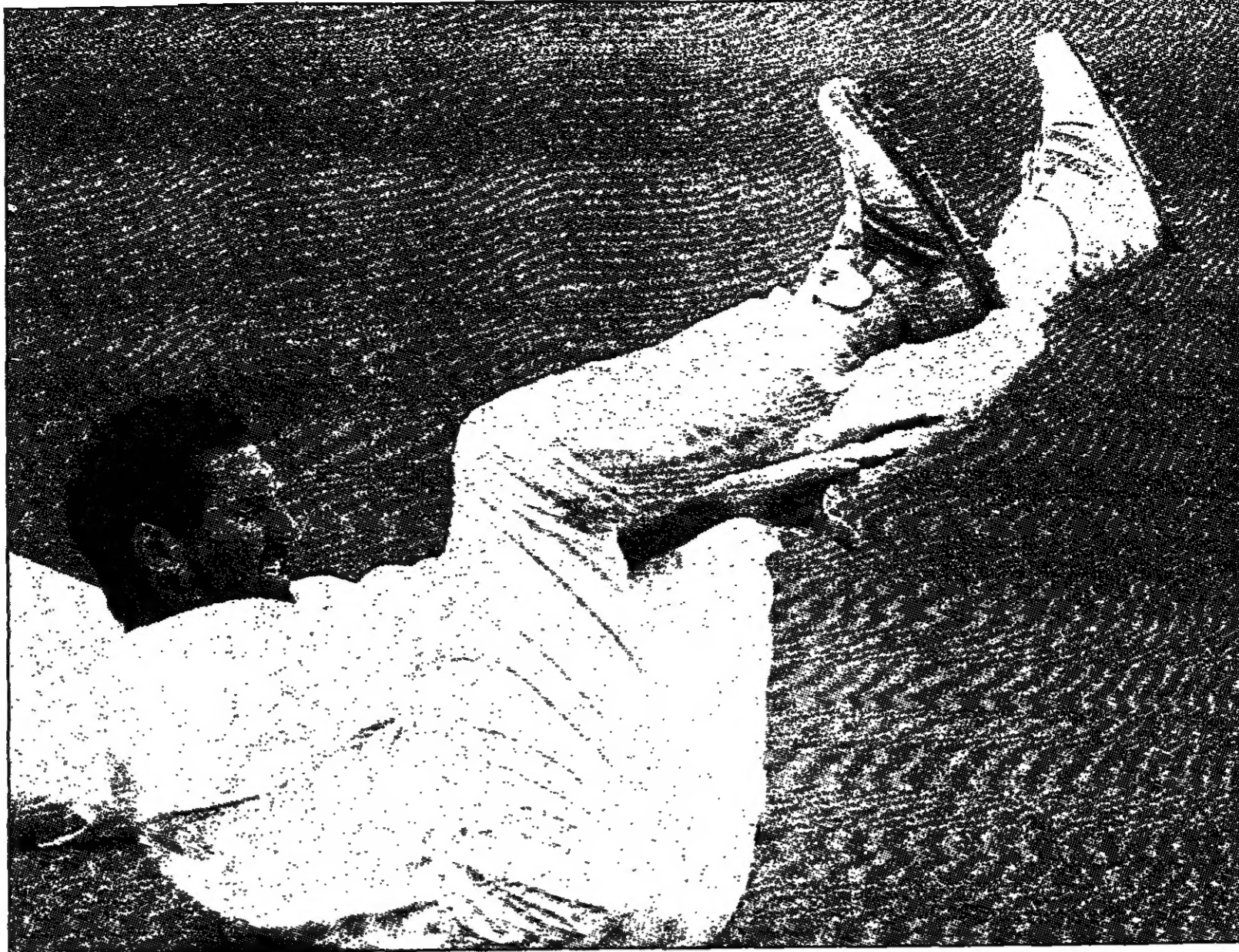
Gooch, however, has demonstrated that his qualities lie elsewhere, largely in the ability to inspire with the occasional standards he sets himself. On a one-to-one basis, he is also far more of a communicator than most would suspect. He is meticulous to the point of fussiness about his own form and fitness and this approach has transmitted itself effectively to the younger men in his command.

Both Gooch and his counterpart, John Wright, agree that these two teams are strongest in batting. Wright said: "What happened to England last summer surprised me greatly. They have played well against us over the years and I respect the depth of players they can call upon."

The likeliest result of this first match is the plain draw. The pitch, which looks slow, the weather, which is unsettled, and the make-up of the teams all support this thought.

England, however, have reacted to the likely conditions by revealing that Hemmings, originally thought to be the probable twelfth man, will play. If Atherton's leg breaks are to be given some exposure, this means that England, for a change, will be fielding an old-fashioned, balanced attack. If Chris Lewis fails the last in a wearying series of fitness tests, England will also not be completely embarrassed unless another of their bowlers also breaks down.

Hemmings's presence will at least help in one respect. The England team has been reminded of the Test and County Cricket Board's efforts to persuade the rest of the world that 90 overs a day is an acceptable minimum for Test cricket. The board was mortified when England dropped to 11 an hour in the Caribbean and there have been strong words about the consequences of any repeat.



Feeling the strain: Gooch, the England captain, does not spare himself as he leads his players in fitness training at Trent Bridge yesterday

## TEST CAREER RECORDS

### New Zealand batting and fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Sts
J G Bracewell	38	58	11	944	110	20.97	1	4	28
J J Crowe	30	65	4	1601	128	24.34	3	6	41
M D Crowe	45	79	7	3258	188	45.85	11	11	47
T J French	22	0	0	342	52	17.10	0	2	6
M J Gresham	11	17	4	802	146	61.89	2	4	5
A J Jones	23	130	19	3017	151	27.18	2	14	37
R J Hadlee	10	18	0	1047	170	46.88	2	5	11
D K Morrison	13	15	6	61	27	7.77	0	1	3
K Rutherford	20	31	5	107	107	17.03	0	1	3
D S Smith	12	15	15	1558	172	25.87	2	5	11
M C Snedden	22	26	6	391	68	14.55	0	1	5
S A Thompson	1	2	1	55	55	55.00	0	1	2
W Watson	1	1	0	5	5	5.00	0	0	0
J G Wright	66	121	6	4200	185	35.52	10	17	34

JP Millson, AC Peters, M W Priest and G Pringle have not played Test cricket.

### England batting and fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Sts
M A Atherton	2	4	0	73	47	18.25	0	1	1
P A J DeFreitas	15	23	0	245	40	11.51	0	1	3
N A Foster	4	4	0	5	5	1.25	0	0	0
G A Gooch	75	136	5	4652	198	37.28	8	30	75
E E Hemmings	9	14	0	285	55	26.45	0	1	4
A J Lamb	61	107	8	3488	157	35.39	11	12	60
D E Malcolm	5	8	31	12	620	1.9	0	0	1
R J Russell	18	3	0	128	66	16.44	0	1	3
R C Small	10	14	4	157	58	13.70	0	1	4
R C Smith	12	23	4	864	143	48.52	2	5	5
A J Stewart	4	8	1	170	45	24.38	0	1	2

\* denotes not out.

Compiled by Richard Lockwood

Source: TCC/BSI

TELEVISION COVERAGE: BBC1 10.50am-1pm, 1.50p-5.50pm, 12.15-12.45am (retransmission) and BBC2 4.45-5pm, 8.50-9.10pm, 11.45pm.

## New Zealanders like Test venue

By SIMON WILDE

WHICH team should be regarded as the underdog in the first Test match starting at Trent Bridge, Nottingham today is not easy to establish, although on the face of it, there should be no contest.

England has a population 20 times greater, a largely professional game and did not taste defeat in international matches between the countries for 48 years up to 1978.

But New Zealand won the last time the teams met at Trent Bridge, in 1986, although this is also the ground where England last beat New Zealand in any Test, seven years and 10 months ago.

The New Zealanders may feel that they have the greater affinity to the ground. As they did

not play a Test in Nottingham until 1969, the place has no associations with the regular and heavy defeats of earlier years, and in the 1973 match their cricketers finally showed they could become an international force.

After being bowled out for 97 in the first innings, New Zealand were set 479 to win. The customary thrashing seemed certain. Instead, Congdon, the captain, and Pollard both batted for almost seven hours and, with only five wickets down, their team was within 77 of victory. In the end, a relieved England got home by 38 runs.

Above all, though, New Zealand can take heart from the fact that Trent Bridge is a second home to their record-breaking all-rounder Richard Hadlee.

## Australian selectors must mark in Waugh

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

MARK Waugh's relentless campaign to force his way into the Australian team alongside his twin brother, Steve, in time for next winter's series against England gathered further momentum yesterday when he made the highest score of his career for Essex against Gloucestershire at Ilford.

Waugh, who celebrated his 25th birthday last Saturday, played a classic innings of 204 on the Valentine's Park ground to raise his season's average to 101.3. Waugh, who was the Sheffield Shield cricketer of the year in the last Australian season, arrived at the crease with Essex in disarray, Stephenson having been bowled for a single and Adam Seymour on the way to hospital with a broken hand.

Waugh soon made it look a different game and, although Prichard fell to the first ball after lunch, Hardie proved an effective partner as Waugh reached his hundred from 54 balls. Waugh hit six sixes and 20 fours in an innings lasting 291 minutes before he was bowled sweeping at Graveney to end a partnership of 242. Hardie had time to complete his century (244 minutes, six fours) the fifth scored in four days in Ilford week, before Essex arrived at the close at 425 for four.

Waugh Youngs, aged 19, the Pakistan fast bowler, made an encouraging first championship appearance for Surrey against Derbyshire at the Oval where he had to wait until only the third over for his first wicket, the prize one of Kim Barnett, splendidly caught by Grogan.

Youngs later won leg-before appeals against Morris and Kuiper to finish the day with highly creditable figures of three for 49 from 19 overs. Derbyshire who reached 183 for five from an over tally restricted to 66 by bad light, were held together by opening batsman Peter Bowler who is unbeaten on 73 — his highest championship score of the season.

Paul Johnson, captaining Nottinghamshire against Oxford University in the Parks, was called upon to repair the damage caused by the cheap dismissals of Martindale and Evans.

**Terry sets course for run revival**

By JACK BAILEY

BASINGSTOKE (first day of three; Hampshire won toss; Leicestershire scored 85 for one wicket against Somerset)

AS IF on cue, sweeping rain descended on May's Bounty at the stroke of lunch. By then, Hampshire had won the toss, had chosen to bat on a friendly, easy-paced pitch and, largely, the day's play was over.

Following the loss of a day's play at Leicester on Tuesday when Hampshire were firmly astride a winning position, yesterday's rain was a doubly disappointing setback for their promising run in the Britannia Assurance championship.

You had to sympathise too, with the local members, the year celebrating their club's 125th anniversary. Thanks to their hard work, the ground at the start was an absolute picture.

Somerset, without Roebuck because of a malevolent virus, included new off-spinner Swale and Trumper, but it was chiefly against a seam attack that Terry and Smith put on 69 for the first wicket. Smith was never quite at home, one sharp change flying high to Tavaré's right, second slip, one leading edge falling into space. He was right back on his stumps when Rose had him leg-before.

Terry, on the other hand, was assured from the beginning. He hit eight fours, many of them from off-spinner Swale. Only 82 runs from seven previous championship innings had come his way, now he looked in ominously fine fettle.

**Hampshire: First innings**  
V P Terry not out 58  
V P Smith not out 58  
V P Coad not out 58  
V P Mott not out 58  
Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

**Leicestershire: First innings**  
J M Jones 10  
J M Jones 10  
J M Jones 10  
J M Jones 10  
Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

## Yorkshire teenagers riding high

SECOND XI CRICKET

By SIMON WILDE

THE two second XI competitions continue to reflect only too poorly the fortunes of the senior sides. Sussex are riding high at the top of the Rapid Cricketline championship, their defeat of Warwickshire at Knowle being their fourth win in four matches, and on Monday, Yorkshire maintained their 100 per cent record in the day-day Bain Clarkson Trophy with their fifth victory of the season.

Yorkshire amassed 320 for two off their 55 overs against Derbyshire in Sheffield. Colin Chapman, aged 18, a wicketkeeper-batsman, struck an unbeaten 128 and Paul Grayson, aged 19, an all-rounder who toured Australia with England's Under-19 party during the winter, scored 87. Derbyshire lost by 134 runs.

Ricky Bartlett, who has yet to play in Somerset's first XI this season, continues to score heavily in the second XI. Last week, in the championship, he took 50 and 153 off Surrey's attack at Yeovil.

Midsex, holders of the Bain Clarkson Trophy, lost to Hampshire by 25 runs at Southampton on Tuesday, their fourth defeat in six matches in the competition this year.

## Careful groundwork brings belated reward for Moles

By RICHARD STREETON

LORDS (first day of three; Middlesex won toss; Warwickshire scored 372 for four wickets against Middlesex)

A FIVE-hour hundred yesterday by Andy Moles was the solid rock around which Warwickshire made certain they took maximum batting points for the first time this season. Nearly everyone contributed on a cold, heavily overcast day when batting could never have been easy in poor light.

Moles occasionally played and missed against the quicker bowlers but did not make a serious error. His approach was usually studious but he did accelerate in a brisk stand with Humpage as Warwickshire reached 300 with five balls to spare. By the close Moles had faced 354 balls and hit two sixes and 11 fours.

There was little in an easy-paced pitch for the six Middlesex bowlers. The spinners, Emburey and Tufnell, took the brunt of the punishment during a burst of late aggression from Moles and Humpage as they added 129 in 23 overs.

Fraser, making only his second first-class appearance this season after his side muscle problems, was used in five brief spells and finished with an unusual analysis of 19-9-18-0. He attempted to bowl a consecutive but did get several balls to lift.

It was the Middlesex captain's 33rd birthday and for a long time he had little to celebrate after choosing to field. Several catches were dropped. Lloyd hit 14 fours in a crisp 70 before he retired injured at lunchtime and it was not until shortly before tea, with the score 206, that the Middlesex attack took a wicket.

Lloyd and Moles have missed out on the glut of runs that have become commonplace this season. Now, each in his own style, they settled in with a measure of confidence. Lloyd was 19 when he survived a chance to Emburey at first slip off Hughes. Shortly afterwards Brown almost reached a fifty, but he was out for a misjudged shot.

Most of Lloyd's boundaries were driven. Just before lunch he began to hobble from a hamstring injury he has been carrying for the past fortnight. He rejected several chances of runs and did not re-appear after the interval. Moles, who attempted few strokes during the morning, had scored only 22 by lunch.

Joined by Asif Din he began to drive more confidently on both sides of the wicket. They put on 100 in 33 overs together before Din was out. He aimed a fierce cut against Tufnell and Emburey, took a high, reflex

catch at first slip. The light worsened as Kalicharran, with five single-figure scores in his last six innings, came in to play with understandable care.

He lasted 10 overs until he tried to sweep Tufnell and lobbed a simple catch off his glove. Warwickshire were 222 from 81 overs at this point. Humpage, however, driving and pulling freely, soon raised the tempo. Moles followed suit with a cut drive for six against Tufnell and reached his century out of 286 from 314 balls.

Once Warwickshire passed 300 they really cut loose and added a further 51 in four overs. When Humpage hoisted a catch to deep mid-on he had made 73 from 57 balls with two sixes and nine fours.

**WARWICKSHIRE: First innings**  
A J Lamb not out 128  
A J Lamb not out 128  
A J Lamb not out 128  
A J Lamb not out 128  
Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

**Middlesex: First innings**  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

## OTHER SCOREBOARDS

**Surrey v Derbyshire**  
THE OVAL (first day of three; Surrey won toss; Derbyshire scored 183 for five wickets against Surrey)

**Derbyshire: First innings**  
M J Gresham 10  
M J Gresham 10  
M J Gresham 10  
M J Gresham 10  
Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

**Essex v Gloucestershire**  
ILFORD (first day of three; Essex won toss; Essex scored 425 for four wickets against Gloucestershire)

**Essex: First innings**  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

**Oxford Univ v Nottingham**  
THE PARKS (first day of three; Nottingham won toss; Nottingham scored 85 for one wicket against Oxford Univ)

**Nottingham: First innings**  
J M Jones 10  
J M Jones 10  
J M Jones 10  
J M Jones 10  
Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

**Gloucestershire: First innings**  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

## Rain keeps Hutton waiting

By IVO TENNANT

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (first day of three; Kent won toss; Kent have scored 53 for one wicket against Yorkshire)

WHETHER Tunbridge Wells was brought forward, moved back or simply left alone, it invariably rains.

Yesterday there were a mere 16 overs to set before Sir Leonard Hutton, Yorkshire's president, who was on the level of grounds for the first time.

No county is in need of uninterrupted cricket more than Yorkshire, who have not won a championship match since last July. They have lost 11 of the 14 matches they have played since then.

After 35 minutes' play, Kent having won the toss and begun at a brisk rate, they were off for bad light. They returned, but only just before the rain started. One wicket fell, that of Hinks.

**KENT: First innings**  
S Hinks not out 5  
S Hinks not out 5  
S Hinks not out 5  
S Hinks not out 5  
Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

**Yorkshire: First innings**  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

## Benson offers his perfect support

By TONY WILLOW

NORTHAMPTON (first day of three; Northamptonshire won toss; Leicestershire scored 85 for one wicket against Northamptonshire)

BATTING was generally hard work here and there was no play after tea because of rain, but this was a day of achievement for Justin Benson, aged 23, who entered with Leicestershire 83 for four and, in completing his maiden championship half-century, reaching 57 not out at the close, played the principal part in a worthy recovery.

Benson, in his third season, gained his chance in the county team on David Gower's departure, and last month, at the Parks, he scored 94 against Oxford. However, this was his highest championship score and he was dismissed for a low score.

Benjamin drove aggressively, including one long straight six over the sightscreen, before being bowled for pace and bowled by Capel.

With Lamb on Test duty and Larkins still absent with a broken finger, this was Nick Cook's first championship taste of the Northamptonshire captaincy. He enjoyed satisfaction as the start, after putting Leicestershire in to bat, his former county losing their first two wickets for just 13 runs in

eight overs. Thomas dismissed both openers, Boon and Briers, and, with Ambrose likewise bowling a fast, good length, batting looked a formidable task on a dull, overcast day.

However, playing with his head down and with application has always been a feature of "Illey's" batting and, now returned to his former county ground, he frustrated Northamptonshire with many a nudge and push down to the third man boundary. He and Whitaker added 68 runs in 24 overs before both departed just before lunch.

Willey was well caught, low down on the leg side by Noon, and his dismissal confirmed the high promise shown by the wicketkeeper. After lunch, Noon held another catch down the leg side off Ambrose to dismiss Potter.

**Leicestershire: First innings**  
T J Boon c Capel b Thomas 4  
T J Boon c Capel b Thomas 4  
T J Boon c Capel b Thomas 4  
T J Boon c Capel b Thomas 4  
Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

**Northamptonshire: First innings**  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

**Northamptonshire: Second innings**  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

**Leicestershire: Second innings**  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

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**Surrey v Derbyshire**  
THE OVAL (first day of three; Surrey won toss; Derbyshire scored 183 for five wickets against Surrey)

**Derbyshire: First innings**  
M J Gresham 10  
M J Gresham 10  
M J Gresham 10  
M J Gresham 10  
Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

**Essex v Gloucestershire**  
ILFORD (first day of three; Essex won toss; Essex scored 425 for four wickets against Gloucestershire)

**Essex: First innings**  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
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Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

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**Nottingham: First innings**  
J M Jones 10  
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Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

**Gloucestershire: First innings**  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
M A Gooch 10  
Extras (b 2) 2  
Total (6 wickets, 66 overs) 210

**Bentley stays put**  
Keith Bentley, aged 20, the Salford and former Great Britain winger, has signed a new 12-month contract with the relegated club. Bentley was Salford's leading try scorer with 15 in 1988-89 but the one-time Widnes and Barrow player missed most of last season through injury.

## Test players rewarded for Caribbean exploits

GRAHAM Gooch, the England captain, Allan Lamb, Devon Malcolm and Jack Russell, four of the team that toured West Indies, have won Courant West Indies awards worth £500 each.

Gooch is rewarded for his outstanding leadership on and off the field. Lamb for his aggressive competitive batting, Malcolm for his "impact as a genuine pace bowler" in taking 19 wickets in the series and wicketkeeper Russell for his "dedicated and single-minded approach".



## CYCLING

# Stephens's brave effort ends in crash near finish

By PETER BRYAN

A BRAVE, lone effort across the Pennines ended in near tears yesterday for Matthew Stephens in the mountainous 107-mile ninth stage of the Milk Race linking Sunderland with Carlisle.

Stephens, aged 20, from Busby, in Hertfordshire, was elected to spend this season riding for a Paris club, slogged his way over the moors, holding off the concerted efforts of a 40-strong chasing group.

Stephens had managed to keep his advantage at around 2 1/2 miles until he turned into a head-wind during the last 10 miles. His head fell quickly as, without shelter, he plunged into the wind while the main pack, sensing an inevitable "kill", piled on the speed.

Two miles from the finish, the exhausted Stephens was overtaken and almost immediately crashed. "I must have been tired that I lost my concentration for a moment and hit a bollard," he said after he had tumbled in two minutes down the third time winner, Jan Bogart, of Belgium.

Lex Nederlof, of the Netherlands, chased his arm at 60 miles near High Force and Stephens decided to go with him.

Within three miles Nederlof was calling to the British amateur to ease up. Stephens said, "How could I ease up then? I was committed."

Rain has been the rider's main companion during the last hour's racing on most days and Stephens became the lone leader.

His was not the only fall. Two other groups came down, the first immediately after the level-crossing at Milton, which involved Britain's Harry Lodge and three Dutchmen. The second group of fallers included East Germany's Uwe Freisler, Tuesday's stage winner at Middleborough, and was the more serious.

Half a dozen riders crashed on the greasy dual carriageway approach to Carlisle, Freisler falling on his head. He was taken to Carlisle General Hospital and after X-rays were checked in for overnight observation.

Five riders, including Dave Rayner, one of the early favourites, retired during the stage with colds or stomach upsets.

The overall race leader remains Shane Sutton, the Australian.

## Bugno rides to victory

MILAN (AP) — The unheralded Italian rider, Gianni Bugno, swept to victory in the Giro d'Italia yesterday, claiming a 17-year-old record by holding the lead in the race for all 20 stages.

Bugno, aged 26, earned his first Giro win in 91st 51min stage, averaging 34.6km/h over the total 3,464km. The lead person to lead the Giro from start to finish was the legendary Belgian, Eddy Merckx, in 1973. Bugno became only the fourth rider ever to do so. Bugno's lead over the runner-up, Charles Mottet, of France, totaled 6min 33sec.

RESULTS: Final stage (only unless noted): 1. M. Bugno (Italy) 51m 51s; 2. C. Mottet (France) 52m 10s; 3. P. Fumagalli (Italy) 52m 11s; 4. M. Sestini (Italy) 52m 12s; 5. P. Fumagalli (Italy) 52m 13s; 6. M. Sestini (Italy) 52m 14s; 7. P. Fumagalli (Italy) 52m 15s; 8. M. Sestini (Italy) 52m 16s; 9. P. Fumagalli (Italy) 52m 17s; 10. M. Sestini (Italy) 52m 18s; 11. P. Fumagalli (Italy) 52m 19s; 12. M. Sestini (Italy) 52m 20s; 13. P. Fumagalli (Italy) 52m 21s; 14. M. Sestini (Italy) 52m 22s; 15. P. Fumagalli (Italy) 52m 23s; 16. M. Sestini (Italy) 52m 24s; 17. P. Fumagalli (Italy) 52m 25s; 18. M. Sestini (Italy) 52m 26s; 19. P. Fumagalli (Italy) 52m 27s; 20. M. Sestini (Italy) 52m 28s.

## Backing for Seles

MONICA Seles's surprising victory over Steffi Graf in the final of the German Open tennis championships has made her the 6-1 second favourite for Wimbledon. Graf, whose defeat ended an unbeaten run of 66 matches, is still a clear favourite at 11-4 on with William Hill, the bookmaker, to pick up her third consecutive Wimbledon title.

## YACHTING

## New class of yacht is sought

By BARRY PICKTHALL

TWENTY yacht designers and experts are locked in thought at a hotel at Chichester this week in an attempt to thrash out the rules for an exciting new breed of ocean-racing yachts to compete in the next Whitbread Round the World Race in three years' time.

One group, led by Rob Humphreys, the British designer of Rothmans, is exploring the possibilities of revising the international offshore rule (IOR) to encourage fast ultra-light displacement yachts.

Another team, including Bill Lee, the Californian ultra-light specialist, and Olivier Petit, the French designer, is developing a free spirit rule for the proposed 60ft and 85ft super-mara similar to the controlling entries in the BOC single-handed classic next winter.

"We have been given a mandate by skippers to develop a class of boat that has nothing to do with the current IOR, but before we throw out the baby with the water along with it, the design team here believes it is sensible to explore making revisions to that rule," David Fritschard-Barrett, the Whitbread conference chairman, said yesterday.

The group is expected to reach a consensus tonight.

## Regatta sorts the 470 team

THE Talkland Eurolymp Regatta ended at Hayling Island yesterday, but the four leading Solings go forward to a match-race series today (Roger Leach, Western Soling). The regatta also decided the 470 crews for the world and/or European championships: the first three Taylor and Pascal.

RESULTS: Final day (only unless noted): 1. R. Leach (Western Soling) 1st; 2. J. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 2nd; 3. P. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 3rd; 4. M. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 4th; 5. J. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 5th; 6. P. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 6th; 7. M. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 7th; 8. J. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 8th; 9. P. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 9th; 10. M. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 10th; 11. J. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 11th; 12. P. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 12th; 13. M. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 13th; 14. J. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 14th; 15. P. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 15th; 16. M. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 16th; 17. J. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 17th; 18. P. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 18th; 19. M. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 19th; 20. J. Taylor (Taylor & Pascal) 20th.

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## Some knockout memories



Army made me Nigel Benn, the World Boxing Organisation middleweight champion, took a trip down memory lanes yesterday when he was honored by his former comrades of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers at the Tower of London (Srikumar Sen writes).

At a lunch given by Col Patrick Shervington (above), Benn's former Commanding Officer in Northern Ireland and Germany, the champion met the members of W.X.Y.Z. companies who were in the regiment's boxing team.

"It seems I just came out yesterday," Benn said, overwhelmed by the back-slapping. "The regiment made me what I am now. Everything I do I ask myself: 'How would the regiment have tackled this?' I am so proud to talk about my army life, I haven't forgotten it."

The man who taught Benn how to "calm down" in the ring, Capt John O'Grady, the team coach, said: "He came at the start of the boxing season. As soon as I saw him I knew he was a cut above the others. I knew if he turned pro he would do well."

Benn joined the Army in 1981 and left six years later after service in Minden, West Germany, to follow a boxing career. "We are very proud of him," Shervington, who is Deputy Colonel, City of London, said. "He has never slugged off the military as is sometimes fashionable and we are grateful for that."

## GOLF

## English players take charge of the Amateur

By JOHN HENNESSY

THE future of English amateur golf is in good hands, judging by the results on the first day of the Amateur championship at Muirfield yesterday. While the north of the border were being tormented by the usual slaughter of the Scots in their own magnificent backyard a clutch of young Englishmen around key-of-the-door vintage were prospering mightily.

They included not only two established internationals in Jim Payne (Sandilands) and Craig Cassells (Muirfield) but also Andrew Sandwell (Asbury), John Bickerton (Dunmurry) and Gary Evans (Dunmurry) still aspiring to that lofty distinction.

Adrian Hill, of Bramhall, unexpectedly joined this happy band for he won a spine-tling first-round match against an American, Marlon Moore, and went on to beat another, David Brookston.

Against Moore, Hill was four-up after 10 holes and all-square after 17. Moreover, he was 40 feet from the pit at the 18th and his opponent was 10 feet in. In true match-play character Hill holed and Moore, no doubt shell-shocked, missed.

Evans, joint winner of the English open stroke-play championship last month, was in devastating form against the hapless Melvin Goodin, of Mid Kent. He was four-under-par and six up when Goodin hoisted the white flag, with no loss of face, at the 15th, having needed only 11 putts over the first nine holes.

After the English, Evans's form took such a depressing turn that, having played poorly in the St Andrews Links Trophy, he pulled out of the Lagonda event in order to get his game back in shape. "For five solid days I worked my butt off," he said or words to similar effect. "I was so tired that I won five holes 'on the spot' against Goodin from the third, three with birdies. He dropped a shot, and a hole, at the 18th and responded with a four at the 19th to turn five-up. The 12th (381yds) surrendered to a two iron and wedge to four feet and there was no way back for Goodin."

Sandwell similarly ran away from his opponent in one purple passage. Having halved the fifth in birdie fours, with George Zahring, he won five in a row from the sixth and there was no American counter-attack.

John Metcalfe, an English international of impeccable credentials, could not control his driver and was ready prey to the solid striking of Bickerton. Metcalfe won the ninth with a birdie but earlier errors had put him in the powerless position of four down. He took three putts on the 11th and Bickerton nailed his man in the grand manner with a nine iron and 15ft putt at the 15th.

All told, England provide 17 of the 32 players in today's third round.

## RESULTS FROM MUIRFIELD

FIRST ROUND: 1. R. Hill (Bramhall) 10; 2. J. Evans (Dunmurry) 10; 3. J. Bickerton (Dunmurry) 10; 4. C. Cassells (Muirfield) 10; 5. J. Payne (Sandilands) 10; 6. A. Sandwell (Asbury) 10; 7. G. Evans (Dunmurry) 10; 8. D. Brookston 10; 9. M. Moore 10; 10. J. Metcalfe (Dunmurry) 10; 11. J. Zahring 10; 12. J. Bickerton (Dunmurry) 10; 13. J. Evans (Dunmurry) 10; 14. J. Bickerton (Dunmurry) 10; 15. J. Evans (Dunmurry) 10; 16. J. Bickerton (Dunmurry) 10; 17. J. Evans (Dunmurry) 10; 18. J. Bickerton (Dunmurry) 10; 19. J. Evans (Dunmurry) 10; 20. J. Bickerton (Dunmurry) 10; 21. J. Evans (Dunmurry) 10; 22. J. Bickerton (Dunmurry) 10; 23. J. Evans (Dunmurry) 10; 24. J. Bickerton (Dunmurry) 10; 25. J. Evans (Dunmurry) 10; 26. J. Bickerton (Dunmurry) 10; 27. J. Evans (Dunmurry) 10; 28. J. Bickerton (Dunmurry) 10; 29. J. Evans (Dunmurry) 10; 30. J. Bickerton (Dunmurry) 10; 31. J. Evans (Dunmurry) 10; 32. J. Bickerton (Dunmurry) 10.

## Woosnam battles against the yips

From MEL WEBB, DROTTHINGHOLM, SWEDEN

EIGHT winners on PGA European Tour this year have turned up to play in the Scandinavian Masters, which starts in this quaint outside Stockholm today. But it was the problem of one of the best of them that was exercising a number of minds in the locker rooms and terraces here.

The question was the most terrible that can be asked of any golfer: "Has Ian Woosnam got the yips?" The ponderings were in hushed tones, the question asked hesitantly following a tentative performance on the greens in the British Masters last week. Anybody would think the poor chap had been accused of beating his wife.

Actually, if he were, it would be easier to solve than the accurate switch. After all, any man can stop beating his wife. As Henry Longhurst once said of the yips: "Once you've had 'em, you've got 'em."

An hour later, the man himself was run to earth in the middle of his pro-am round, and the question, rather diffidently, was put to him. Rather like a careless butcher who has inadvertently severed a tendon when dismembering the Sunday joint, he was only too keen to discuss how the accident befell him.

"People who have the yips tend to have trouble in taking the putter back," he said. "I am the opposite: I am taking it back too far, and then decelerating when I come to hit the ball. The ball tried to follow through, but that only makes it worse."

My head comes up, my right hand takes over and I end up pulling everything to the left. There are those who might say that anybody who is leading the Order of Merit with more than £142,000 by this stage of the season has got the right sort of problems, but after a win and two seconds in his first five tournaments of the season, he has suffered a lapse of form in his past two — 29th in the PGA championship and 35th in the British Masters. It was at Woburn that his troubles on the greens reached sleepless-night proportions.

Preparing as he is for another tilt at the US Open next week, Woosnam seriously considered not coming here, but in the end thought he would be better served trying to solve the problem. He is Ian Woosnam, the man who has flattened the lie of his flag putter in an effort to get the ball into dock instead of heaving to on the port side all the time — under tournament conditions.

Yips or not, he will be a formidable presence, and yips or not, his will be one of the names that can be expected to be there or thereabouts come Sunday.

His main rivals in a high-class field appear to be Ronan Rafferty, Roger Davis, Craig Parry, John Mahoney, Howard Clark and Craig Stadler. None of them, as far as is ascertained, has anything resembling the yips. Knowing golfers, they would probably rather be accused of beating their wives.

## Heavy cold cannot hold back a suffering Hall

By PATRICIA DAVIES

ON A grey, breezy day that deteriorated into a damp, thoroughly miserable afternoon, Joanne Morley, of Sale, and Julie Hall, of Solihull, shared the Astor Salver at the Berkshire with a total of 144, two under par, yesterday.

Hall, suffering from a heavy cold and not sure what medication the drug rules allowed her to take, had a round of 72, one under par, on the Blue course, in the morning, and matched it on the Red in the afternoon. Morley had 73, level par, on the Red and followed it with a 71 on the Blue. Jill Thornhill led after a morning 70 on the Blue but confessed that she "got excited" in the afternoon and took 76.

In Morley, the Cheshire champion, opened with a bogey four on the Blue, but five subsequent

him into fourth place.

Nick Skelton, who qualified for this class with Apollo, decided to rest him for today's Nations Cup.

The team captain, Ronnie Massarella, foresees the British Nations Cup horses being Apollo, Joe Tun's Waystider, or Vital. Emma Mac's Everest Oyster and Henderson Monsanto. As a result, only Vital and Oyster will start in the big class today.

RESULTS: International championship of West Germany: 1. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 2. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 3. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 4. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 5. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 6. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 7. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 8. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 9. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 10. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 11. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 12. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 13. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 14. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 15. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 16. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 17. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 18. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 19. Altona Gossala (L. Beierlein, West Germany); 20. Altona Gossala (L. 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● RACING: 40-41  
● CRICKET: 42  
● GOLF: 43

## Hadlee declares himself fit to plague England

By ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD Hadlee will go into an emotional Test match at his home of Trent Bridge today pleading for a return of sanity and standards to the international cricket circuit.

Hadlee broke a bone in his right hand 13 days ago. Mere mortals do not attempt to play again so soon. Hadlee, however, is not only the most accomplished all-rounder in the game's history but a man of untainted pride and dignity, plainly affronted by his game's recent excursions into the gutter.

In confirming, yesterday, that he has pronounced himself fit to plague England again in this first Cornhill Test, the New Zealander was keen to volunteer some further profound thoughts.

"Whatever happens to me in this series is unimportant," he insisted. "I feel no pressure and I want none. My career is rounded off and I am content with what I have achieved. What is important is that we see some real cricket and forget all the controversies."

"It seems that in every series played now, there are far too many incidents involving umpires, time-wasting and bad behaviour. It has to be of some concern and I believe legislation must be that much tougher to get rid of it."

### Nottingham teams

ENGLAND (from): G A Gooch (captain), M A Atherton, A J Stewart, R A Smith, A J Lamb, H H Fotherby, R G Russell, C J Lewis, P A J DeFreitas, G C Small, D E Malcolm, E E Hemmings.  
NEW ZEALAND (from): J G Wright (captain), T J Franklin, A H Jones, M D Crowe, M J Greatbatch, M W Priest, I D S Smith, J G Bracewell, T J Hadlee, M C Snedden, D K Morrison, J J Crowe.  
Umpires: H D Bird and J H Hampshire.

"At the end of the day, this is still a game. It is to be played hard but fair. That is what I have always believed in and always tried to follow. The bad things that have happened, in the West Indies and in parts of Asia, have gone world-wide, damaging the image of cricket and this series, between two teams who like to play the game properly, is important to the restoration of credibility."

With that off his chest, Hadlee was happy to reminisce as he gazed around the ground he graced for 10 years as a Nottinghamshire player. "It is the best ground in the world," he said unequivocally.

"It has beauty, history and a marvellous playing area. It holds many good memories for me but today, they must be put to the back of my mind, because a Test is a Test, no matter where it is played."

Hadlee's hand was broken by a ball from Chris Lewis at the Oval. Even the New Zealand management was dubious over his prospects for the first Test, while others

scribbled premature obituaries — just the sort of thing to make this passionate man still more intent on a rapid recovery.

His captain, John Wright, said last night: "He is a remarkable man. With some people you would say that a broken hand is the end of it but it doesn't seem to have bothered him. It is a setback but it has never got him down. He has simply adjusted to the problem."

Hadlee will bowl without discomfort, trying to add to his world record total of 415 wickets. "Bowling is no problem, fielding is marginal and batting is debatable," he explained. Hadlee plans to field at third man or fine leg but will bat, with a reinforced right glove, in his usual position at No. 7.

"One of the fascinations of this tour was to play a final Test at Trent Bridge. It was a significant factor in my decision to come and it has spurred me on to recovery."

It will be Hadlee's fifth Test on this ground. The first three were lost but, in 1986, he took 10 wickets and scored 68 in New Zealand's historic win. He insists: "This really is the end. If there is to be another comeback it will be as a coach or a manager. My life will change direction next month because at 39, it really is harder each day to get out of bed and train."

## Playing his final hand



Hand in glove: Hadlee with special protective glove over broken right hand

## Muster a bore but Ivanisevic is still a failure

From ANDREW LONGMORE,  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, PARIS

THE ticket touts were not doing good business along the Rue d'Auteuil yesterday morning. Perhaps the French public had read the advance notices from Goran Ivanisevic on his quarter-final opponent, Thomas Muster. "I never watch him," the Yugoslav had said. "He is too boring."

Perhaps, too, they had sensed that their own Champion, Thierry, had limped to the end of his road. They were right on both counts. Muster beating Ivanisevic in four relentless sets and Champion falling to the No. 4 seed, Andre Agassi, in three.

Boring or not — and the Austrian's muscular game is certainly not to everyone's taste — Ivanisevic must have regretted his choice of words after being ground slowly but surely into the red dust of Roland Garros. Indeed, by the end, he had changed his tune just a little. "If he plays like this, Muster's going to win this tournament," he said later.

Whether Muster fulfils that prediction depends on his ability to outlast Agassi, eight years his senior, in his semi-final and to outthrust either Agassi or Svensson in the final. But if the qualities required were honesty and toughness alone, there would be no doubt about it. Twelve months ago, the Austrian was hobbling about on crutches, his left leg smashed to pieces after being hit by a car in Miami in March.

The timing of the accident was particularly cruel: Muster had just started to break through into the top ranks. Now he is in his second grand slam semi-final, safe in the knowledge that Lendl, his conqueror in Australia, is

### Semi-final draw

MEN'S SINGLES: G Svensson (Swe, aged 23, unseeded) v A Agassi (US, aged 20, seeded 3); A Gomez (Ec, aged 30, seeded 4) v T Muster (Austria, aged 22, seeded 7); WOMEN'S SINGLES: S Graf (Ger, aged 20, seeded 1) v J Novotna (Cze, aged 21, seeded 11); J Capriati (US, aged 14, unseeded) v M Seles (Yug, aged 16, seeded 2).

elsewhere and that his brush with despair has left him a happier and tougher player.

"When you have been working hard for 10 years to reach a goal and just before you get there you can't walk anymore, what is winning or losing a tennis match? I am certainly mentally stronger than before my accident," Muster said.

Ivanisevic found little of the inspiration or determination which had accounted for Becker, Jarryd, Kukenov and Kroc in the earlier rounds. The Yugoslav served 15 aces but produced a double fault on break point in the fourth set to put the match firmly in Muster's grasp.

"It was hard watching his serve in the second set because it was getting so dark and he served so hard. You feel you might fall asleep soon," Muster probably felt that way too as the Yugoslav's mistakes multiplied and Muster simply battered his way to a 6-2, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 victory. Their hopes for something better were soon dashed by Champion, who offered only token resistance to Gomez.

Surprisingly, considering he has been at it for a decade, Gomez has never been in a grand slam singles semi-final before. With Gustafsson polling out of his fourth-round tie and Champion barely fit after a hip injury, he must be feeling that this is his week. The touts might beg to differ.

### RESULTS FROM PARIS

MEN'S SINGLES: Quarter-final: T Muster (Austria) bt G Svensson (Swe) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; Semi-final: A Gomez (Ec) bt T Muster (Austria) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Third round: J Novotna and H Sukova (Cze) bt L Gregory and G Mays (GB) 7-5, 6-3, 6-2; Quarter-final: N Pietrangeli and A Panatta (ITA) bt M Seles and J Capriati (USA) 6-3, 6-2.

(Soc) 6-4, 6-1; L Sanchez and N Zvereva (URS) bt G Grewal and S Tan (Ind) 6-4, 6-3; S Tan (Ind) and J Wiesner (Austria) bt O Korda-Rach and B Scherz (CZE) 6-2, 6-7, 6-3; Novotna and Sukova bt R Ragnethorn (Cze) and A Tarnesvold (Den) 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

MIXED DOUBLES: Third round: L Field and S Yoni (Aus) bt C Sures and O Delano (Fr) 6-3, 6-2.

## Inspired Backley looks for record

From DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, HELSINKI

THE legend of the tower at the Olympic Stadium here is a favourite story in Finnish athletics. It is said that when Matti Järvinen set a world record for the javelin in the 1930s, as a monument to his achievement the tower was constructed to a height which equalled the distance of his throw.

Sadly, the story is false. "But 90 per cent of Finnish people believe it is true," Kari Waukonen, the meeting co-ordinator for tonight's international match between Finland and Britain, said. "It was never the intention of the architect to repeat exactly the world record, it was coincidence."

The legend is poignant, however, for it reflects the status of the event here: if there are any architects in the house of 30,000 this evening

they had better have access to a good many more bricks than were needed in Järvinen's day.

Even before Järvinen, javelin throwing was the national event of Finland. Steve Backley, the world's best, against Seppo Rätty, their own world champion, is big on the bill.

"They cannot be hopeful that their man will win. His presence may be the shove that Backley needs to become Britain's first men's world record holder in the event."

"I would like to break the world record in Britain but Finland is the spiritual home javelin throwing and, if it has to be somewhere else, this is the place," Backley said.

His target is the as-yet unrattled 89.10 metres thrown by Patrik Bodén, of Sweden, in March. Backley threw 88.46 metres in Cardiff.

## Defenders cause worries

From STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, CAGLIARI

THREE members of England's defence were unable to take a full part in training yesterday. Peter Shilton and Mark Wright were confined to the team's hotel a few miles away from the tiny stadium in Pula and Paul Parker was involved only in the lighter aspects.

Bobby Robson, the England manager, was careful not to fuel speculation that the injuries might be serious but, with the opening World Cup tie only five days away, they are a source of concern.

For Shilton to miss practice, even if his absence was merely a precautionary measure, is rare. The 40-year-old fitness fanatic will equal Pat Jennings' world record of 119 caps on Monday, assuming that his knee is no longer sore. England's manager suggested that the bruising was caused by the goalkeeper continually diving on the sun-baked surface. Yesterday, ironically, it was softened by torrential rain.

Wright ricked his neck during the first half of the 10-2 victory over a Sardinian XI on Tuesday and had to sleep in a soft collar. Nothing can be done to hasten the recovery process and no one can determine precisely how long the injury may last.

Parker, who twisted an ankle last week, still cannot comfortably kick a ball.

At least Bryan Robson's fitness is no longer in any doubt. The heel he jarred during the FA Cup final replay is no longer tender. In view of the possible casualties amid the defensive unit, it was reassuring to hear that the captain and most effective guard in midfield is certain to be available for the match against the Republic of Ireland.

The resale of tickets ruins the segregation of supporters, a key feature of crowd control in stadiums; it also bypasses the screening of supporters against the blacklist of known troublemakers held by the Football Association and distributed to the Italian police.

"The whole system has broken down and, quite honestly, who is surprised?" said

## Britain's position of power under attack

ROME (AP) — The FIFA Congress yesterday retained its old hierarchy of football powers at the expense of emerging nations. It did, however, also approve measures to keep the game up to date.

João Havelange, of Brazil, was re-elected as president for a fifth four-year term, underlining South America's importance as a footballing power. Havelange, aged 74, was unopposed.

An African proposal to reduce the role of the United Kingdom and other traditional strongholds in FIFA's hierarchy and give greater say to Africa, Asia, Oceania and North and Central America, did not get the required 75 per cent of the vote.

"Sooner or later they will have to change, you have to have some equality of some sort," David Phiri, chairman of the Zambian federation, said.

Because of its four federations, the United Kingdom is the only country with four

votes, and it is assured of one of the nine vice-presidencies in the federation. Africa and Asia have just one vice-president each, compared with four from Europe, including one reserved for the Soviet Union.

The United Kingdom's position came in for some harsh criticism yesterday. "To give four votes by virtue of being British is just not good enough," said Elmasny, of Tanzania, who made the proposal as representative of the African nations, said. "The situation is you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours," Phiri said.

Even in World Cup qualifying Africa feels under-represented. It is allotted only two teams at the World Cup, compared to 14 for Europe. "There is an injustice," Elmasny said. "There is no moral, legal or political reason why Britain should still be in this position."

● Alex Ferguson, the manager

of Manchester United, finally ended his search for a right back of prudent quality yesterday when he agreed to pay second division Oldham Athletic £625,000 for Dennis Irwin. Oldham will receive a further payment of £75,000 if Irwin, aged 24, makes three more appearances for the Republic of Ireland (Ian Ross writes).

● Leeds United have continued their seemingly perpetual spending spree by buying Chris Whyte, the former England Under-21 central defender from West Bromwich Albion, subject to a medical, for a fee expected to be decided by tribunal (Steve Acton writes).

● At an emergency board meeting in London yesterday, Hibernian rejected a takeover bid of £6.12 million by Wallace Mercer, chairman of Heart of Midlothian, and announced that the club will continue to fight for its independence.

## Tout sales threaten security

From JOHN GOODBODY, CAGLIARI

Steve Beauchamp, who is co-ordinating the centre for England followers run by the Football Supporters' Association. The FA yesterday opened its own office here next to the British Consulate to exchange vouchers for tickets and to sell any spare seats to approved supporters who are members of the FA Travel Club, although it cannot, of course, get access to tickets obtained by the Italians.

Seats cost between £55 and £9 for England's three preliminary games in Cagliari and some are still available at the Banca Nazionale di Lavoro, the official ticket agency.

Beauchamp said: "It seems tickets are being sold quite openly. Clearly people are getting them who are not members of the England Travel Club." He added that

it was not the fault of the FA. A further problem is that, because of the high pricing of package deals, by the two official agencies in Britain, Italia Tours and CIT Sports-world, about 6,000 tickets are still available for England's three preliminary matches. The FA wants to obtain these tickets to sell to bona fide supporters, but the travel agencies have yet to release them.

The three England supporters who were jailed on Monday until after the first round of the competition, after being found guilty of stealing sheets and damaging a hotel bedroom, are sharing a cell in the local prison, with a washbasin, toilet and television. The vice-consul who visited them yesterday said that they were in "good heart".

The credibility of the thesis relies in part on Capriati's extraordinary power and maturity on court; in part on the form and attitude of Seles and Graf. Graf has to negotiate

## Extra spring may work for Capriati

From ANDREW LONGMORE

BOTH on and off court, Jennifer Capriati has had a ball in Paris. She has been to see the Eiffel Tower, Napoleon's Tomb and Notre Dame; she has even spent a little time at Roland Garros, disposing of her opponents with such ease that she is matching Steffi Graf for swiftness of execution. In reaching the semi-final of her first grand slam, she has won all her matches in straight sets and lost just 20 games.

Those statistics would be remarkable, even if the 14-year-old from Wesley Chapel had little or no chance of beating Monica Seles in this afternoon's semi-final, but the simple truth is that she has a very real chance of winning and, beyond that, of becoming the youngest ever grand slam champion.

The credibility of the thesis relies in part on Capriati's extraordinary power and maturity on court; in part on the form and attitude of Seles and Graf. Graf has to negotiate

Jana Novotna, the last obstacle on the way to her thirteenth consecutive grand slam final, in today's other semi-final.

The main problem for Seles is respiratory. Has she got enough puff left to blow Capriati away? She has looked very tired after her last two matches and has not enjoyed an easy ride through the ranks.

In contrast, Capriati seems eager, fresh and unimpaired. "She's like I was at 14 except she's stronger and better. At times, she overhits, but she will learn about that. There is no doubt she is top 10 in terms of ability already," Judith Wiesner, her third round victim, said. Capriati herself says simply: "I think I can win; everyone thinks I can win."

The prospect of reaching her first grand slam final should be enough to put some extra spring in the Yugoslav's step, but not many involved in the compilation of Capriati's Book of Tennis Records would care to put money on it.

## Sampras waits his turn

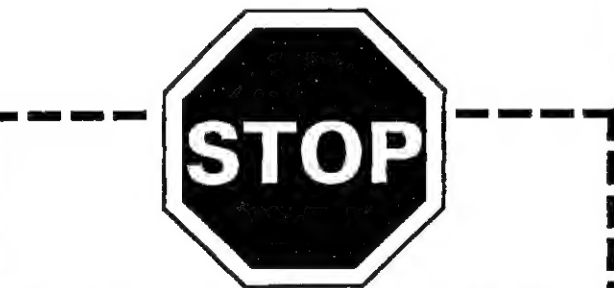
WHILE most of the talk concerning who will win the Wimbledon title this year centres around Becker, Cash, Edberg and Lendl, Fred Perry, no less, believes Pete Sampras, a personable Californian, has the potential to become a future Wimbledon champion (Barry Wood writes).

Seeded No. 4 at the Direct Line Insurance tournament at Beckenham, Sampras, aged

18, was left kicking his heels yesterday as rain denied him practice in his build-up to the championships.

Although losing in the opening round last year to Todd Woodbridge, Sampras has since developed his serve and volley, at the same time improving his world ranking from 90 to 20.

RESULT: Women's singles: Second round: K Hant (GB) A Lound (US), 6-3, 7-5.



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## Canada to decide whether Johnson can resume

By DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

BEN Johnson, who was stripped of his 100 metres gold medal at the Seoul Olympics because of steroid abuse, has twice been tested negative since the Games and will learn the outcome in the next fortnight of two more tests.

Johnson is eligible to return to international competition on September 25, when the two-year suspension imposed by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) is completed. Whether he will receive his country's backing depends on the outcome of the Dublin inquiry into drug abuse in Canadian sport, the results of which are expected later this month or early in July.

The tests, conducted by the Sports Medicine Council of Canada, all

took place unannounced in Toronto. The first two, in May and November last year, proved negative; the result of the third, taken last month, should be known next week and the fourth, also taken last month, is expected the following week.

After Johnson's disgrace in Seoul, Canada's Minister for Sport, Jean Charest, said that no Canadian found guilty of drug abuse would again compete for the country. The defection by the Canadian Track and Field Association (CTFA) of the shot putter, Peter Dajia, from the Canadian team to compete against Britain and East Germany in Gateshead on June 29, apparently under orders from the Government, suggests no softening of the hard line.

Charest is no longer in office and his successor is awaiting the Dublin report before making any

pronouncements. The CTFA president, Paul Dupre, has offered encouragement to Johnson, however. "Let us make it clear, come hell or high water, it is the Canadian Track and Field Association's intention to end Ben's individual ineligibility on September 24."

Paul Hardy, the former doping control officer of the IAAF now charged by the CTFA with responsibility in that area, received confirmation on Tuesday of the defection of Dajia, who was suspended in 1986 for steroid abuse but later reinstated.

"The feeling is that the recommendation of the Dublin inquiry will be that policy should change and that suspended athletes should be able to come back and compete," Hardy said.

The Government subsidises 70 per cent of Canadian athletics and

athletes are graded. "We have a grading system — A, B or C depending on your level," Hardy said.

"You will receive a supplement depending on the level you are at. The key point with Johnson seems to be not whether he will be allowed to compete, but whether he will be allowed to receive funding from the Government because he will return as an elite athlete."

Whatever the outcome, Johnson will not be welcomed by Britain. The British Amateur Athletic Board said a fortnight ago that athletes admitting to, or found guilty of, taking drugs would not be allowed to compete in international championships or matches. British officials like to think of themselves as world leaders on drug

punishment, which makes a misunderstanding on the subject, at the United Kingdom championships in Cardiff at the weekend, all the more embarrassing.

No drug testing was carried out on the first day, Saturday, when 12 finals were held, after an administrator at the Sports Council, which carries out drug testing in Britain, took a conversation with Mike Farrell, the Amateur Athletic Association secretary, to be an instruction on no Saturday testing.

Farrell supplied the Sports Council with written notice at the start of the year of the meetings to be drug tested and he said yesterday that no such order was made. "I am going to insist in future that they ask for changes to be notified in writing," he said.

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Exports to  
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FRANCE  
The French public had read the advance notices from Goran Ivanisevic on his quarter-final opponent, Thomas Muster. "I never watch him," the Yugoslav had said. "He is too boring."

Perhaps, too, they had sensed that their own Champion, Thierry, had limped to the end of his road. They were right on both counts. Muster beating Ivanisevic in four relentless sets and Champion falling to the No. 4 seed, Andre Agassi, in three.

Boring or not — and the Austrian's muscular game is certainly not to everyone's taste — Ivanisevic must have regretted his choice of words after being ground slowly but surely into the red dust of Roland Garros. Indeed, by the end, he had changed his tune just a little. "If he plays like this, Muster's going to win this tournament," he said later.

Whether Muster fulfils that prediction depends on his ability to outlast Agassi, eight years his senior, in his semi-final and to outthrust either Agassi or Svensson in the final. But if the qualities required were honesty and toughness alone, there would be no doubt about it. Twelve months ago, the Austrian was hobbling about on crutches, his left leg smashed to pieces after being hit by a car in Miami in March.

The timing of the accident was particularly cruel: Muster had just started to break through into the top ranks. Now he is in his second grand slam semi-final, safe in the knowledge that Lendl, his conqueror in Australia, is

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RESULT: Women